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Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Envoy on League Discussing 'U.S. Threats'

NC1407093291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0917 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received an official memorandum from Nabil Najm, Iraq's envoy to the Arab League, in which Iraq asked that an extraordinary Arab League session be held at the ministerial level to discuss the new U.S. threats against Iraq.

Following the handover of the memorandum, the Iraqi envoy said Iraq's demand for an extraordinary Arab League session at the ministerial level stems from Iraq's conviction that the U.S. threats of a new offensive against it constitute blatant aggression against an Arab country and a threat to the Arab nation's security. He added that the Iraqi request is in accordance with the League's charter and the joint Arab defense treaty.

The Iraqi envoy expressed hope that the Arab countries will respond to the Iraqi request. He noted that despite Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations, the United States has been waging for almost two weeks now a baseless media campaign which it wants to use as a cover for a new aggression against Iraq as a whole and not just against its scientific establishments.

Egypt To Allow Entry of Gazans in Kuwait

JN1407063691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jul 90 pp 1,5

[By Staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Egypt is expected soon to lift all curbs imposed on the entry to the country of Gazans holding Egyptian laissez-passer, ending months of uncertainty facing the holders of Egyptian documents stranded in Kuwait, informed sources said Saturday. One of the sources said the expected decision, which comes after contacts between the Egyptian government and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), "will be announced soon, in a matter of weeks..."

The source, who requested anonymity, noted that PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) met with senior Egyptian officials, including Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, in Cairo last week. Mr. 'Abbas' talks in Cairo followed a meeting between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi in Libya earlier last week. Egyptian-PLO relations were strained over the positions Cairo and the PLO leadership adopted towards the Gulf crisis.

Independent sources confirmed that the PLO was seeking Egyptian agreement to accept Gazans stranded in Kuwait regardless of the validity of their travel documents. The present system in place in Egypt imposes strict restrictions on the entry of Gazans with Egyptian documents. Under the system, some categories of Gazans are given immediate entry while others have to wait for some time before the clearing process in finished. In many cases, flat rejection awaits the applicants.

Many of the Gazans stranded in Kuwait are not permitted to return to the occupied Gaza Strip under the conditions specified by the Israeli occupation authorities. At the same time, regulations laid down by the occupation power also stipulate that all Palestinians leaving the occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip should return through the same route they took on their way out; Egypt in the case of Gazans and Jordan in the case of residents of the West Bank.

Egypt, which has distanced itself from all issues related to the Gaza Strip and its residents after signing the Camp David peace treaty with Israel in 1979, apparently fears that the returning Gazans could remain on its territory if they are denied entry to the Strip by the occupation authorities. It is estimated that about 23,000 Gazans holding Egyptian travel documents remain in Kuwait. Most of them are expected to be forced to leave Kuwait in line with a Kuwaiti government decision not to renew employment contracts of Palestinians, whom the Kuwaitis accuse of collaborating with Iraq during the seven-month Iraqi occupation of the emirate.

Many of the Gazans in Kuwait are believed to be seeking to come to Jordan. The head of an Amman-based committee extending help to returning expatriates said last week that the panel was exerting efforts to ensure that those Gazans who want to come to Jordan are accepted by the Kingdom. Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul said Saturday the government has not been approached in connection with this issue and the cabinet has not discussed the subject of Gazans' entry or transit through Jordanian territory. At the same time, Mr. al-Subul said: "The issue does not concern the Jordanian Interior Ministry or the Jordanian government alone. It is a question that has to be dealt with at a pan-Arab level."

Mr. al-Subul said Jordan was indeed aware of the problem of people facing expulsion from Kuwait in the aftermath of the Gulf war. "Jordan will receive all those who possess Jordanian passports, including West Bank residents who carry temporary Jordanian passports," Mr. al-Subul said. "We will faciliate the return to the West Bank of the temporary passport holders and extend help wherever possible," he added. On the question of Gazans, he said, "we have not been approached by anyone over this issue. When Jordan is formally approached with any request for help, then we will consider it, in line with the pan-Arab national positions that the Kingdom has always adopted and advocated and within the limitations imposed by its resources," he said.

Highly informed sources said that Jordan will not allow itself to be singled out to shoulder the responsibility of the Gazans while other Arab countries which have much larger resources were turning a deaf ear to the problem.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Meets Palestinian Faction Leaders

LD1207193891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Yesterday in Tripoli Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, met representatives of the Palestine revolution factions and Palestinian popular organizations in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. During the meeting, brother president Abu 'Ammar talked about the latest developments in the Palestine issue, conditions in the occupied homeland, and the situation in the Arab region.

Speaking on the international peace efforts, brother president Abu 'Ammar blamed the United States, which is dealing in double standards with international legitimacy. He stressed that the U.S. lack of respect for its pledges to push the peace process forward and its provision for every kind of financial and moral support to the enemy government to enable it to prevaricate and obstruct these peace efforts. Brother president Abu 'Ammar added: Any solution not based on the declared Palestinian firm stances—the basis of which is the 1988 initiative—will not see light.

On the situation in the occupied homeland, the brother president pointed out the intensity of the Zionist terrorism, which coincides with a fierce colonization onslaught to Judaise the Palestinian land and colonize it, and the exclusion of the Jerusalem issue from any settlement and the pan-Arab, national, and religious threat that constitutes.

Abu 'Ammar called for every kind of support to be offered to our people's intifadah, which is continuing with great determination, despite all the terrorism, until the collapse of the occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people.

Belgian Foreign Minister Meets Dignitaries

TA1207191691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] This morning at the American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem, Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens met with a group of Palestinian dignitaries, including Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, Dr. Hannan 'Ashrawi, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, and Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha from Gaza. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that during the meeting the Palestinian dignitaries reviewed the situation in the territories and the Palestinian position on the peace process.

PLO Official, UN Envoy on Israeli 'Repression'

JN1207174691 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Brother Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has conferred in the Jordanian capital, Amman, with Mr. Edouard Brunner, the UN secretary general's special Middle East envoy. They talked about the key UN role in the search for a solution to the Palestine and Middle East questions based on UN resolutions. They also discussed occupied land developments and the relentless repression of Palestinians by Zionist occupation forces.

Mahmud 'Abbas Meets Egyptian Interior Minister

JN1307183791 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], PLO Executive Committee member, has met in Tunis with Egypt's Interior Minister Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa. Brother Hakam Bal'awi, member of Fatah Central Committee, the PLO representative in Tunisia, attended the meeting. They reviewed the latest Palestinian developments, focusing on the occupied Palestinian territories against the background of mounting and systematic Israeli repression. They stressed the need to restore Arab solidarity and promote common Arab action in the interest of the struggle of our Palestinian people and tackling the challanges facing the Arab nation.

Qaddumi, Delegation Expected in Damascus 21 Jul

JN1307184591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources in Damascus say that a PLO delegation under Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, is expected in the Syrian capital on 21 July. The sources say Qaddumi will resume the dialogue he began with the Syrian officials in late May. The delegation will also resume contacts with the Palestinian organizations that are based in Damascus and which are not affiliated with the PLO.

PLO Delegation Leaves Tunis for Cairo Talks

LD1307181491 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] A Palestinian delegation, led by Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] PLO Executive committee member, has left Tunis for Cairo for talks with Egyptian officials on the Middle East peace process. The delegation will discuss with the Egyptian officials the PLO stance toward the currents efforts to give an impetus to the peace process in the Middle East.

It is worth mentioning that the PLO has on several occasions expressed the belief that the peace process has reached a dead end as a result of Israel's intransigence and its rejection of PLO participation in any international conference on peace in the region.

Commentary Views Bush Statement on Mideast Peace

LD1207174191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] U.S. President George Bush said, in a recent interview pulished by the French paper LE FIGARO yesterday, that he would like full benefits from the credibility that the United States gained in the Gulf war and that he will not spare his efforts for achieving a peaceful political solution in the region. With this frank statement, the U.S. President links the Gulf issue and its results on one hand and the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict on the other under the umbrella of what he calls credibility. He previously rejected such a link and insisted on completely separating the issues of the Middle East.

We and the United States and its allies knew that such a link exists by necessity, despite their categorical rejection. We believe that the results of that war, its continuous consequences, and the rapid political changes have compelled Washington to openly adopt this fundamental attitude. Thus, what is the credibility of the international legitimacy in the Gulf problem if it is not achieved also in the Palestinian issue and the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in accordance with UN resolutions and UN participation, in addition to the participation of all the other concerned parties?

It seems now that the political process, which nearly came to a halt with the latest tour of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker a few weeks ago, is able, according to various sources, to move again. Bush's statement to that French paper on the continuation of efforts is not removed from those sources that mentioned that the Syrian reply to the old American message provides a positive deduction in this regard. Despite the fact that Damascus has not yet disclosed the contents of this reply, the Cairo-based paper AL-AHRAM said yesterday that the Syrian and Egyptian answers open the way to the continuation of the political process. On the other hand, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will meet his American counterpart, James Baker, in Athens next week in order to talk about this political continuation.

What is more important than all this is the extent of change of the Israeli stance. Has Yitzhaq Shamir's government changed its stubborn stance or is it still in its state of rejection? The most important thing is the question of the fate of the American credibility in light of the continuation of the Zionist stubborness and American attitude toward Israel in this case. These are the questions that deserve clear American replies from Bush or his high- ranking officials.

Algeria

Unrest, Gunfire Reported Over Weekend

Paratroopers Occupy Mosque

LD1207134591 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1300 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] [Announcer] Fever rose again in Algiers. Paratroopers and gendarmes opened fire just now on thousands of Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] demonstrators who gathered around the Kouba Grand Mosque for the Friday prayers. Police wanted to disperse the fundamentalists, and according to witnessses there are wounded. Anne Dissez reports from Algiers:

[Dissez] Nothing in the fundamentalists' attitude led one to foresee any possible incidents caused by the Friday prayers. A demonstration calling for the release of Madani and Belhadj [arrested FIS leaders] took place in Badjarrah last night but without any trouble. Today, however, as the prayers started at Ben Badis Mosque at Kouba, former preaching ground of Madani and Belhadj, the army and gendarmes intervened to disperse the faithful at the moment when Islamic Call League President Imam Ahmed Sahnoun, who strongly supported the two leaders this week, started his preaching. Faced with the protests of the faithful, police fired and the wounded were evacuated by ambulance.

[Announcer] The paratroopers are reportedly still occupying the Kouba Mosque.

Army Units Fire on Crowds

LD1207164291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] We are receiving telephone calls from outside the capital with callers for clarification concerning what happened today in Kouba. What happened is that the Army units deployed there opened fire to disperse large crowds in nearby streets on their way to the Ibd Badis Mosque to perform the Friday prayers. The operation ended in confusion. Three persons were hit by stray bullets, and one of them may have died, according to our correspondent there citing eyewitnesses. The report has not yet been confirmed from other sources. After that the situation calmed down. The imam who had delivered the two Friday sermons called for calm and reason.

One Death Reported

LD1207195191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] APS, quoting eyewitnesses, reports that at noon today a number of people tried to organize a march from Hay el-Badr toward Kouba Mosque, while chanting Islamic Salvation Front slogans. This prompted the security forces to intervene to disperse the marchers and to remove barricades from the streets.

A short time ago the same agency reported that a military ambulance, carrying two wounded people, was attacked. Three security men were wounded in the attack. Ensuing clashes left seven people injured; the total of people injured among civilians and military personnel is 12.

[Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 12 July notes: "One of the wounded died of his injuries while being taken to the hospital."]

'Around 30' Arrested

LD1307002291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At Hay Ben Omar [Ben Omar district] in Kouba, a small group of troublemakers, strangers to the district, attempted to organize a march. The troublemakers were dispersed, and nine people were arrested.

At Bachdjarah [district in Algiers] a group of troublemakers attempted to erect barricades in many places, which were removed by the security forces. It has been learned from a source close to the military authorities that calm has returned to all parts of the capital.

Following the events in Kouba and Bachdjarah today, groups of troublemakers retreated to Diar el-Djemaa and Oued Ouchaih districts, where they attempted to erect barricades; every time security forces intervened to remove them.

In addition to the toll declared this afternoon, it has been learned from a source close to the military authorities that around 30 people had been arrested, and that calm was gradually returning to the two districts. [passage omitted]

'Total Calm' Restored in Algiers

LD1307133491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] After yesterday's troubles in Kouba municipality before and after Friday prayers and then later in Bachdjarah, our colleagues Mourad Madaoui and Hamza Ouahib toured the capital's streets and districts, including Kouba, before filing this report:

[Correspondent] During our tour of the capital's streets and districts, including Kouba and Bachdjarah municipalities as well as nearby areas, we noticed that the general atmosphere in these districts is characterized by total calm. Citizens' activities and the traffic seem to be normal for a public holiday [Hegira New Year].

In the Oued Ouchaih district, however, we noticed a number of barricades still in the streets. In Makria municipality a citizen told us that the first shots in a long time were heard last night.

We were told that people who were injured during yesterday's incidents were taken to Kouba hospital, so we went there this morning seeking more information.

The Kouba hospital administration prevented us from making any inquiries, however, and asked us first to obtain authorization from the military sector which has the competence to issue such an authorization. This meant we were unable to ascertain the number of victims of yesterday's incidents. After several attempts, however, we were able to find out that a number of injured people received first aid at Kouba hospital; some only have minor injuries and others have been transferred to other hospitals.

Algiers FIS Bureaus Form Coordination Committee

LD1207160291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] The leadership crisis of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has led to more complications, with fresh consequences: the executive bureau of a number of municipalities of the capital have moved to form a provisional coordination committee. This came after a statement made to the radio by Mr. Said Guechi, chairman of the FIS committee of organization and coordination, who said that he had an official mandate from the two detained, Cheikhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, to take charge provisionally of leadership affairs of the Front.

Yesterday the new coordination committee, which represents a group of municipalities of the capital, as we have already mentioned, issued a communique, a copy of which was received by the radio. In the communique, the coordination committee announces that it has withdrawn its confidence from the executive bureau of the governorate of the capital regarding the position of the latter as defeatist, deviationist, and supporting those who had deviated from the line of the FIS.

On the other hand, the committee announced its support for the leadership of the provisional executive body emanating from the meeting of the governorate bureau, i.e. for members of the national madjlis Ech Choura, Cheikh Mohamed Said Guechi, and Cheikh Abdelkader Hachani, whose leadership follows the original FIS line, as the communique said.

We point out that this committee's communique bears the signatures of the executive bureau of 29 municipalities in the governorate of the capital alone.

Islamic Front Activist Urges Purge of Movement

LD1407104291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Said Guechi, a prominent leader of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has announced that a national meeting of the FIS will be held shortly, with the participation of all the FIS activists, in order to determine the party's prospects.

Said Guechi told EL-JOUMHOURIA that he aims to continue the action of the FIS within the framework of legality. In a statement to EL-WATAN, he called for a wide-ranging purge within the FIS. Only those who believe in the new era that has come to the country and in the right of others to express their views should remain in the FIS, he asserted.

Cabinet Assesses Strikes, Worker Reinstatements

LD1307154491 Algiers APS in Arabic 0930 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Algiers, 13 Jul (APS)—The cabinet, at its meeting on Thursday, 11 July 1991, studied the consequences of the political strike that was launched at the end of last May. The Prime Minister's Office issued the following clarifications:

The strike did not have a wide response, and the rate of response to the call for a strike varied according to regions and posts held. The average rate of response did not exceed 5 percent of the work force. The period of work stoppages varied from one or two days to several weeks.

At the level of local councils in particular, it was noticed that a number of workers were forced to stop work because their workplaces had been closed; cases of work obstruction were also recorded.

Most of the strikers who had received first or second degree penalties had later returned to work in a normal manner, with the exception of a limited number of strikers who, in the framework of legal procedures, had been dismissed. This was often due to their refusal to respond to calls to return to work, or due to their being obstructed from working.

Since its formation, the government has registered its satisfaction with the correct application of the law by employers, and also noted that the dismissal decision made had been treated, after individual appeals, with a high humanitarian spirit. They had often been withdrawn.

The prime minister pointed out that during his meeting with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders on 3 July 1991, in which they expressed in the name of the Choura Council "their willingness to respect legitimacy and continue the dialogue," they expressed the hope that striking workers would be reinstated in their jobs as early as possible.

After assessing the situation at the level of the concerned agencies and establishments, the cabinet reiterated the necessity for settling disputes resulting from the strike within the framework of respect for the legislation and order governing employment relations, but with the humanitarian feelings necessary for restoring tranquility.

The prime minister also noted with satisfaction that at least 98 percent of the striking workers had been reinstated to their jobs after their employers had studied the individual cases. The employers did this with commendable leniency. Thus, the employers made a valuable contribution by responding to the

government's call to all citizens, urging everyone to give priority to mercy, as far as possible, so that confidence gradually replaces fear, accord replaces disunity and cooperation replaces confrontation.

The strikers who have not yet been reinstated in their jobs, estimated at less than 2 per cent of the total number of strikers, are, on one hand, those whose appeals had been rejected because of their committing acts of violence and sabotage; and on the other hand, those who had been dismissed and had not lodged individual appeals either because of their ignorance of the law or for other reasons.

Therefore, the government draws attention to the fact that the legal ways of dealing with reinstatement requests requires workers who believe that an injustice has been committed against them to proceed individually with appeal procedures as provided for in the laws in force.

Parties Invited To Attend National Conference

LD1407203891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Preparations for a national conference of all political parties. This will very probably be discussed during the news conference the head of government is due to give at the end of the week. Mr. Ghozali will in fact be addressing the national and international press at the Ibn Khaldoun Hall.

It has been learned from a reliable source that the national conference will be more than consultative, as it is intended to achieve the consensus needed for overcoming the crisis in the country, and also for holding the forthcoming legislative elections in the correct conditions. The government, in its apparent concern to increasingly assimilate political parties in appraising the situation, is thus, on this occasion, preparing to inform the political parties on the real economic, social, and financial situation in the country.

Also proposed for discussion will be a code of ethics and politics whose rules of operation will be accepted and observed by all. In fact, these will be real consultations, and the national conference, without being deliberative, will be rather more than consultative. It is also believed that about 10 parties have been contacted by Mr. Belkaid, the minister responsible for relations with the National People's Assembly and the parties.

A further clarification—the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has reportedly not responded—only responses from personalities of the Islamic sphere of influence have been received, like Cheikh Sahnoun. In all probability the government is waiting for the FIS to elect an official leadership before it is received as the Islamic Salvation Front in the framework of preparations for a national conference.

Ben Bella Comments on FIS, Government Actions

LD1507051991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The MDA [Movement for Democracy in Algeria] leader gave a news conference this afternoon. Mr. Ben Bella tackled in particular the current situation in the country and also the latest events that have shaken Algeria. On this occasion Mr. Ben Bella rejected the action waged by the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], even though he expressed approval for the demands of that party. Here are the explanations from Faysal Hassaf:

[Hassaf] [passage omitted] He began by pointing out that he had never condemned the intervention of the ANP [National People's Army] at the height of the violence: It was ineluctable, he said, but I note that the whole of Algeria is calm today, that things are straightening themselves out outside the sensitive districts of Algiers. Consequently, it would be best to lift the state of siege in order for the government to be able to use the means of its policy, the MDA leader continued.

On the disturbances in Algiers on Friday, the former president of the Republic said he thought that the authorities, after lifting the state of siege, will know how to handle the matter of agitators not only on Fridays but as our weekends approach.

Ahmed Ben Bella expressed encouragement for the transitional government: I think Ghozali is sincere when he speaks of honest elections, he affirmed; his idea for a national conference represents an ideal opportunity to restore confidence, end quotation.

It was on the action of the FIS and the insurrectionary strike, however, that the debate with Ben Bella broadened. There is no doubt on this point that the former president rejects the idea of wiping out the FIS with a single stroke, but he rejects squarely what it has undertaken. I have said to the FIS: You are right on the problems of the demands, but what you are doing as far as methods are concerned is extremely serious. [passage omitted] There still exists a chance, he continued, on condition that we are vigilant. We have to encourage the transitional government. [passage omitted]

Activist Comments on Political Situation

LD1207175291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The proceedings of the first national congress of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development [MAJD] are expected to be concluded this evening at the Aurassi Hotel. Our colleague Mourad Madaoui met on the sidelines of the proceedings with Mr. Mahdi Mezbah, the leader of the movement, and asked him about the secession within the eight-party group and the issue of the three-party polarization, which was considered to be a solution for the crisis that took place. Here is Kaddi Mezbah's answer.

[Begin recording] [Merbah] I had said that the third pole, which could have been created by the eight-party group, could have become an alternative solution for the two fronts: the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and the FLN [National Liberation Front]; problems appeared within this group, however, and external pressures took place which led to the dismantling and dissolution of this group. No more meetings were held. Consequently, we say that this operation comes within the strategy pursued by the regime from the beginning in order to create problems between the parties. We consider that this comes within the regime's strategy of harming the reputation of the parties, dispersing them, and preventing their coalition so that only two poles remain in the end, the FIS and the FLN. The aim behind this is to create fear within the people who, in consequence, will vote for the FLN. We had condemned this policy from the first day, and said that this policy of bipolarization will not be any good for the country.

[Madaoui] The program of the Algerian Government is in harmony with its being a program of a transitional government.

[Merbah] In fact, we hoped that a big part of this program would be devoted to political programs so that our vision regarding the electoral code will be clarified: will it or will not change? The division of the constituencies, if it is changed—what will be the body of party consultation? If it is changed, the date of elections will have to change. What is this date? How will the media be used? What is the campaign? All these matters would have been made clearer. All these matters are not clear so far, and even the early presidential elections, about which the head of the current government said that he has two missions—he told me personally when I met him that he has two missions: the organizing of legislative elections and early presidential elections—but he did not give any date. [end recording]

Restrictions on Foreign Journalists Eased

LD1507030191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] The national radio has learned that it has been decided to ease restrictive measures on the entry of foreign journalists to Algeria. The measures were implemented following the recent disturbances in the country. It was mentioned that journalists can now enter Algeria on condition that they have obtained a press visa from the Algerian Embassy in their countries of residence.

Free Islamic Revolutionary Party Founded

LD1207120591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] At noon today the Organization of Free Islamic Revolutionary Forces of Algeria deposited its endorsement documents at the Interior Ministry. The organization currently has its headquarters in Tlemcen and is led by Ahmed Benmalek. Mr Benmalek told APS that the organization intends to work toward establishing an Algerian mentality distinguished in its spirit, behavior, and intellect.

Egypt

Mubarak Warns Saddam of Possible 'Offensive'

NC1307115791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1109 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubark has sent a message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn "through a third party" warning him of the current dangerous situation which may expose the Iraqi people to the possibilities of another offensive by the allied forces that may destroy certain strategic targets inside Iraq, because of Iraq's rejection of the international community's appeals regarding the insepection of its nuclear installations in accordance with the UN resolutions in this respect.

Muhammad 'Abd al-Mun'im, President Mubarak's press secretary, has stated that in his message President Mubarak requested President Saddam Husayn to consider, soundly assess, and take the current situation seriously. He requested him not to pursue the same behavior he did prior to the outbreak of the Gulf war, which led to the losses that fraternal Iraq sustained for not taking the international community's warnings seriously.

During the Gulf crisis President Mubarak sent 32 messages and appeals to the Iraqi president, in which he tried to save and spare the Iraqi people from the disaster of war. Despite the fact that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn did not take these appeals seriously, President Mubarak, nevertheless, has sent him a new appeal—No. 33—trying once again to save the Iraqi people from unwarranted and unequal battles.

Mubarak Comments on Message

NC1407135191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] London, 14 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that he hopes Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will realize the nature of the current situation and resolve the nuclear inspection issue in order to avert a major catastrophe.

President Mubarak asked Saddam, in order to avoid another military strike against him, not to obstruct the UN inspection teams. Mubarak pointed out that he has sent a message to the Iraqi president through a third party asking him to solve the problem to avert a catastrophe.

In an interview with the BBC correspondent in Cairo, President Mubarak said he hopes the Iraqi president will believe him this time. Mubarak pointed out that before the outbreak of the ground war to liberate Kuwait, he told the Iraqi president that a ground war was inevitable, but Saddam did not believe him. Mubarak said that he does

not have secret agreements with anyone, but he does feel and see what is taking place. Therefore, he said, I have asked President Saddam to protect his people against more military strikes, which undoubtedly will inflict civilian casualties.

In the interview, Mubarak said he has sent his message to the Iraqi president through a third party, just as he did during the Gulf crisis. He sent the Iraqi president a message through similar channels 48 hours before the outbreak of the ground war. President Mubarak said: I asked him to accept the ultimatum issued by U.S. President Bush in order to protect his people and the Iraqi Army.

When asked for his opinion about the recent declaration issued by the UN Security Council's permanent member states in Paris that the Middle East should be a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, President Mubarak said that he was the first person to make such a proposal. He said he did so during a visit to Baghdad during which he said that all of the region's states, including Israel, must abide by this policy. He maintained that if this policy is not applied to Israel, other regional countries will purchase these weapons even if the major countries try to prevent it.

Mubarak said that weapons of mass destruction can be purchased anywhere in the world, and even if the sale of such weapons is banned, nations might circumvent the ban and purchase them anyway. He said that Iraq, for example, managed to get these types of weapons under a ban. President Mubarak emphasized that the region can be free of weapons of mass destruction if a ban is applied to all states in the region. He said that Egypt will fully and totally abide by such a ban.

Mubarak on Mideast Peace, Striking Iraq

NC1407120791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1137 GMT 14 Jul 91

["Text" of interview with President Husni Mubarak by unidentified Hamburg DER SPIEGEL correspondent—date not given]

[Excerpt] [introductory passage omitted] [DER SPIEGEL] Mr. President, five months have passed since the end of the Gulf war and Saddam Husayn is still in power, the oil wells are still burning, and the old dynastic rule has been restored in Kuwait. Did you send Egyptian troops abroad for this?

[Mubarak] We did not send our troops to the Gulf to get rid of Saddam Husayn, but to contribute to the liberation of Kuwait. We did it for purely defensive purposes, nothing more.

[DER SPIEGEL] But in doing so you have assisted in the restoration of a regime that is much less democratic than your own.

[Mubarak] You cannot compare Kuwait with Egypt, where people can criticize the heads of state and government, and everything and everybody.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why shouldn't such a great thing be allowed in Kuwait?

[Mubarak] Let us be frank. If Kuwait had allowed the same type of democracy that we have, it would have been a dangerous game with many players, the outcome of which could not have been guaranteed.

[DER SPIEGEL] What does that mean?

[Mubarak] It means that Kuwait as we know it may have come to an end. The hungry man must not eat all the food he craves at once or he will die. The shift from a totalitarian regime to democratic rule can lead to disaster. In Kuwait, all subversive elements must first be removed. Kuwait cannot move to the next stage of democracy until it ensures its internal and external security.

[DER SPIEGEL] What, in your opinion, is the best way for Kuwait to ensure external security?

[Mubarak] This is not my concern. Kuwait and the other Gulf states should answer this question. They want Egypt to participate in a security system. Kuwait is also interested in the participation of American and Arab forces but there is no detailed plan yet. We intend to contribute to the plan, which is still in the preliminary stages.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why hasn't the crushing defeat inflicted on the aggressor Saddam Husayn led to his downfall?

[Mubarak] The Iraqi people must decide whether and when Saddam should go. The country and people in Iraq are currently divided: The Kurds are in the north and the Shiites are in al-Basrah and the south. Saddam and his followers are in Baghdad, the center of the country. This division has prevented Iraqis from coming together and deciding what to do about the regime.

[DER SPIEGEL] As a former military officer, we would like to ask you: Would you have ended the war prematurely and thus maintained the regime in power, or would you have continued fighting until Saddam had been brought down?

[Mubarak] As a president of an Arab state, I do not want to seek the toppling of a head of another Arab state, particularly by force. If the Iraqi people are satisfied with their president, so be it.

[DER SPIEGEL] Could you explain the mistake the allies made at the beginning of the war on their very exaggerated assessment of the Iraqi war machine and the strength of the units deployed in Kuwait?

[Mubarak] When I told the allies my personal assessment they did not like it.

[DER SPIEGEL] Can you tell us what you told them?

[Mubarak] I told them that the Iraqi forces were absolutely incapable of resisting the allied armies for an extended period of time. In a statement I made to the U.S. ABC television network in early February, I predicted that the war would end before the month did and that the ground war would last four to seven days at the most.

[DER SPIEGEL] It seems that the Americans are afraid that Iraq may have retained its capability to manufacture a nuclear bomb. Do you share this fear?

[Mubarak] Saddam has been weak since the Gulf war because he needs hundreds of billions of dollars to ensure the livelihood of his people and to rebuild his country. After the catastrophic defeat and extensive destruction, the Iraqi people want only one thing: They want to eat and to live. Had I spent that much money on weapons, my people would have rebelled against me.

[DER SPIEGEL] There has been a lot of evidence lately that America intends to destroy the nuclear facilities that they believe exist in Iraq. Is Egypt prepared to take part in a new military strike against Iraq?

[Mubarak] Absolutely not, never. I have said from the beginning that Egyptian soldiers will not violate Iraqi territory. I do not do things like that.

[DER SPIEGEL] Did you have any doubt during the Gulf crisis about the wisdom of an alliance between Arab, Islamic, and Western countries against another Arab country, particularly since some of these countries had a colonialist past?

[Mubarak] I would cooperate with Satan to protect my country. If America or countries that had a colonialist past like France help me defend my country, why should I refuse?

[DER SPIEGEL] Saddam has called you "a traitor to the Arab cause." Will it be possible for you to reconcile with him?

[Mubarak] It will be difficult. He called me a traitor. I never betrayed the Arabs, I only told them the truth. Saddam lied to me, he lied to Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and he lied to U.S. President George Bush and other leaders when he told them he would never use military force against Kuwait.

[DER SPIEGEL] When and where did Saddam say that?

[Mubarak] During a closed session of the Arab summit conference in Baghdad, Saddam said that Iraq would never attack an Arab state, and he mentioned Kuwait as an example. He said: If I do attack an Arab state, you can send your armies against me. Saddam repeated this statement during the Arab lawyers federation conference. On 2 August 1990, he invaded Kuwait.

[DER SPIEGEL] Did he tell you about the operation beforehand? Did he call you on the telephone?

[Mubarak] No. I found out about the invasion of Kuwait at 0500. I initially thought that Saddam had occupied only the disputed border areas. When I realized that he had occupied the entire country, I was shocked.

[DER SPIEGEL] Did you have a personal relationship with Saddam Husayn before the Kuwaiti crisis?

[Mubarak] Yes. That is why I visited Baghdad on 24 July 1990 in an effort to mediate in the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait. Saddam gave me his word of honor that he would not invade; eight days later he occupied Kuwait.

[DER SPIEGEL] Was there any truth to the U.S. claim that the Iraqis were going to attack areas inside Saudi Arabia?

[Mubarak] Saddam is the one who said that. He said that Iraq's naval borders with Iran extended 850 km, the distance between al-Basrah and Oman. I reminded him of this.

[DER SPIEGEL] But it did not prevent him from carrying out his adventure.

[Mubarak] This man is a megalomaniac. He wants to be the new 'Abd-al-Nasir. 'Abd-al-Nasir was a liberator of nations; Saddam is an aggressor. He entered Iran in 1980 to intimidate and scare the Gulf states.

[DER SPIEGEL] To what end?

[Mubarak] He believed that the operation against Iran would last only one month, and then he would either control the Gulf states politically or control the oil fields. The war against Iran lasted eight years instead of several weeks, thus postponing the occupation of Kuwait.

[DER SPIEGEL] How can you explain Muslim and Arab support of Saddam during the Gulf war even though he occupied a fraternal Arab state.

[Mubarak] They had their own reasons for supporting him.

[DER SPIEGEL] Some of the extremists have acted up in your country, too. For example, they demonstrated at Cairo University to express their opposition to Egyptian participation in the war.

[Mubarak] Anarchists and extremists are present everywhere, in Germany, England, France, the United States, India, Japan. Hundreds of thousands of students study in our universities. What effect can a few hundred demonstrators have? I will remind you of the Peoples Assembly's reaction to my announcement on the deployment of Egyptian troops to Kuwait. All the deputies, without exception, gave me an enthusiastic standing ovation as an expression of unity rarely seen.

[DER SPIEGEL] The extremists try to exploit the vast social gaps basically resulting from the population explosion to incite the masses against the government. How do you intend to tackle this challenge?

[Mubarak] We are aware of these groups and monitor their activity. I do not believe that these groups are Muslim groups, because Islam calls for peace and love.

[DER SPIEGEL] It seems that Muslim extremists may become a threat to the secular states that try to solve their problems with tanks, such as what is happening in Algeria. Can such a thing happen here?

[Mubarak] We are in total control of the situation.

[DER SPIEGEL] Sudan, your southern neighbor, is controlled by a group of officers who seem to be religious extremists. Do you intend to take measures regarding this situation?

[Mubarak] We are following the situation in Sudan closely. We are aware that the extremist Muslim leader, Hasan al-Turabi, is behind the current situation. We hope, however, that he will not exceed his limits regarding Egyptian-Sudanese relations. We will not permit him or anyone else to tamper with Nile waters.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Palestinians who supported Saddam have lost more than anyone else except Iraq in the wake of the war. As far as you are concerned, is Yasir 'Arafat still a credible partner in the search for a solution to the Palestinian problem?

[Mubarak] The Palestinian problem is not 'Arafat's or any one person's problem. It is the problem of a people who have lost their land and their individuality. We are trying to solve this problem, even through contacts with Israel, so the Palestinians can regain their land, for example, in a confederation with Jordan. As for 'Arafat, he is retreating on all fronts.

[DER SPIEGEL] But your prime minister, 'Atif Sidqi, recently met with 'Arafat in Libya. Does this meeting have any special significance?

[Mubarak] Sidqi was attending the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Libyan committee when 'Arafat came in. He could not, of course, decline to greet him.

[DER SPIEGEL] Israel insists on rejecting the principle of land for peace. How is it possible to arrive at peace given the Israeli position?

[Mubarak] The principle of land for peace would provide a good opportunity for peace. It is natural that the price of this peace should be taken from the occupied land, as George Bush, James Baker, and almost the rest of the world are demanding. How can the Palestinians reach a peace agreement with Israel when Israel is occupying their land? This is the equivalent of your occupying my home and wanting to reach an agreement on peace at the same time. It is contradictory and impossible.

[DER SPIEGEL] Syria has the right to demand that Israel return the occupied Golan Heights. Do you believe that there is hope that Israel will return that area demilitarized?

[Mubarak] I cannot speak on behalf of Syria. Consequently, I cannot say that Syria may agree to demilitarize the Golan Heights. Such issues can emerge out of negotiations.

[DER SPIEGEL] Before and after the Gulf war, many Arabs hoped that the Americans would reward the Arab countries that assisted the United States in the war by pressuring Israel to move toward peace. The pressure has not been sufficient yet. Are you disappointed?

[Mubarak] As a matter of fact, the United States is exerting efforts for peace. I do not like talking about pressure, however, because we in Egypt would not like external pressure to be put on us. We need to convince Israel to take steps that serve peace.

[DER SPIEGEL] How?

[Mubarak] We hope that an international Middle East peace conference will convene before the end of this year. This does not mean that the problem will be solved. Even if a conference were to convene, we would still have a long way to go.

[DER SPIEGEL] Are you optimistic anyway?

[Mubarak] Yes, I am optimistic in principle.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does the situation in the Middle East require a new dramatic initiative similar to the historic trip to Jerusalem that your predecessor, the late Anwar al-Sadat, made in 1977? Are you prepared to take such a step?

[Mubarak] The question is not about my visiting Jerusalem or Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's coming to Egypt. Such visits would mean nothing unless they are preceded by good preparations to be more than an occasion to drink tea together. If a situation arises that has a real opportunity for success, however, I would be ready to invite Shamir to visit Cairo.

Mubarak Phones Al-Asad on Peace Process

NC1307152191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon to discuss the Middle East peace process and the current Middle East situation.

Foreign Minister Welcomes Syria's Response

NC1507123791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Egypt welcomes the Syrian response to the U.S. initiative, because Syria's participation in the peace process is extremely important. The foreign minister also expressed the hope that the Syrian response will speed up this process.

Musa added that there is a possibility that he and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker may meet once they have agreed on a date and venue as part of the dialogue the country has been holding with the United States, which is playing a major role in the peace process. The foreign minister said that Egypt is currently holding contacts with the concerned parties to advance the peace process.

Israeli Foreign Minister Said To Visit 29 Jul

NC1307090791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0841 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I reported today that Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi will arrive in Cairo on 29 July on a short working visit. While here, he will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on a number of issues of common concern, primarily the obstacles Israel is placing before the peace process. The paper said that Levi will be accompanied by a number of Israeli Foreign Ministry officials and an information delegation representing the Israeli media.

Israel Said Using Egypt's Airspace for Falashas

NC1507103691 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Jul 91 p 1

[Huda Makkawi report]

[Text] High-level security sources have informed AL-SHA'B that Israeli authorities transferred a new group of approximately 3,000 Ethiopian Falasha Jews to Israel through Egyptian airspace last month.

In a report which important security organs submitted to the Presidential Office, the sources also revealed that the Israeli authorities used eight Ethiopian Airlines and Cyprus Airways jumbo jets, each with a capacity of 460 passengers, to make the transfer.

The report said that the Egyptian authorities are unable to prevent the transfer of Jews via Cairo Airport, and that the Egyptian [as published] authorities are exploiting the rights given to them by civil aviation agreements.

The report also said that Israel exploited the provisions of the International Civil Aviation Organization "ICAO" agreement, which gives any country the right to fly its airplanes through another country's airspace without opposition. The report explained that, because Egypt and Israel both signed the agreement and are also linked by diplomatic ties and normalization accords, the Egyptian authorities have been powerless to prevent the transfer of Jews via Cairo Airport and through Egyptian airspace.

In a new development connected with the emigration of Indian Jews via Cairo Airport, a Pakistani diplomatic source asserted that the Indian authorities are involved in this operation.

'Arafat Said in Stopover at Cairo Airport 14 Jul

NC1507092891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stopped at Cairo Airport for one and a half hours last night before continuing on to Libya.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses Iraq With 'Abd-al-Majid

LD1407132691 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] The brother leader last night received brother 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League secretary general, and told him that the Arab League and the Arab nation could not stand by and watch the blatant injustice that is taking place in Iraq, which is being led by the Western countries for the benefit of the Zionists.

He stressed that what is taking place is designed to terrorize the Arab nation into submission to the so-called greater Israel, which is to extend from the Euphrates to the Nile, from the Mediterranean to the sources of the Nile, and the sources of the Euphrates and the Tigris.

The brother leader asked the Arab League to ensure that the deployment of the atom and the enrichment of uranium are banned according to international law. He said: If these are banned by international law, then the first country to be disarmed must be the so-called Israel. If it refuses to hand over the nuclear weapons and reactors it possesses, then it must be attacked, in accordance with the prevailing logic that is being applied to Iraq. First, the Israelis must be asked to hand over the nuclear capabilities they possess. If uranium enrichment and possession of the atom are not banned, however, then by what right is Iraq to be subjected to what it is being subjected to now?

The brother leader told the Arab League secretary general that Arab countries must define their stances vis-a-vis this serious issue, which could lead to a war and the overturning of all criteria, and must confront the encroachment of America and its allies.

The brother leader informed the Arab League secretary general that Turkey is a cat's paw and a base, much the same as the so- called Israel. He stressed that the Arab nation must define its position vis-a-vis Turkey, and the terrorist operations that are taking place now are a continuing series to which every Arab state will be exposed. He emphasized that the Arab states' silence over what is taking place in Iraq will not save them from the punishment awaiting them.

The talks dealt with the progress made in amending the Arab League Charter and the Arab federation proposal. The brother secretary general of the Arab League stated that a conference of Arab foreign ministers will be held on 1 September, and the amendments to the League's

charter prepared by experts and specialists—the basis of which is the Arab federation plan—will be submitted to the Arab foreign ministers then.

The secretary general stressed to the brother leader that the Arab League is engaged in preparing a proposal on the Arab court of justice, which will in turn be submitted to the ministers at the next meeting.

It was agreed at the meeting that efforts must continue to clear the Arab atmosphere so that an Arab summit can be convened later.

Al-Qadhdhafi Warns Turkey Against Attacking Iraq

LD1207212591 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Turkish President Turgut Ozal—date not given]

[Text] Any attack launched against Iraq from Turkish territory will blow up the bridges of all relations between Libya and Turkey, for we believe that any new attack on Iraq is unjustified and is a blatant injustice and a declaration that the world has become a jungle.

We were all against Iraq's presence in Kuwait, and Kuwait has now been recovered. After Kuwait's recovery all measures should have ended with a total withdrawal of the Western troops, the lifting of sanctions against Iraq, and noninterference in its internal affairs. But the scenario now taking place is a terrorist policy against all the Arab peoples with a view to subjugating them to the so-called Israel so that the emigration could be completed and the greater Israel established from the Euphrates to the Nile, from the Mediterranean to the sources of the Nile, and the sources of the Tigris and Euphrates.

Turkey under your rule would then be an accessory to this evil plan, which would certainly harm Turkey itself and which would eventually lead to a war between the Arabs and their Turkish brothers. This is what the colonialist West wants. In any case, I have said everything I could.

'Popular War' Against Foreign Forces Urged

LD1407215591 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1936 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Tripoli, 14 (JANA)—JANA's political editor has commented on the fabricated campaign to which Iraq is exposed on the pretext that it possesses nuclear capabilities. The editor describes this campaign as exposing the real aims of the foreign military presence in the Gulf, which entered the region under the umbrella of liberating Kuwait. He said:

"In a fabricated exaggeration of Iraq's nuclear capabilities, as a preparation for addressing a new strike against it, the calls for war against Iraq have risen anew in the world's capitals."

After the threats uttered by U.S. President Bush to attack Iraq and destroy 20 Iraqi targets, claiming that they contained nuclear equipment, French President Francois Mitterrand today explicitly threatened Iraq with military action if it does not submit to European demands, particularly concerning establishments and factories of a nuclear character. The French president emphasized the French agreement with President Bush to participate in any new interference against Iraq.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council have given Iraq a final date, 25 July, to present full information about its nuclear capabilities; otherwise, it will face dire consequences.

Commenting on the new fabricated campaign to strike Iraq, JANA's political editor said:

The threats to stage military action against Iraq on the pretext that it hides nuclear weapons is a premeditated aggressive action not only against Iraq, but also against the whole Arab nation, aimed at bringing it to its knees, and subjugating and humiliating it.

The editor adds: This action reveals the real aims of the foreign military presence in the Gulf, which entered the region under the umbrella of liberating Kuwait.

Kuwait has been liberated, but the foreign military presence continues, and the threats of aggression against Iraq are being repeated. This is clear evidence that the aim of this presence was not to liberate Kuwait, but to subjugate the Arab region to Israel's will and to enable it to establish its state from the Euphrates to the Nile, from the Mediterranean to the Nile sources, and the sources of the Tigris and the Euphrates, and to establish it as a policeman in the region to look after the interests of the neocolonialists.

JANA's political editor asks: If this was not the case, then what was the justification for all that campaign based on the claims that Iraq has nuclear equipment, while it is a signatory of the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, and its installations are subject to the inspection of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency]?

At the same time the Zionist entity's possession of nuclear weapons is ignored. This possession is a fact that is not unknown to anyone. This entity does not respect the international legitimacy, has not signed the Vienna treaty, and does not allow any inspection of its nuclear installations. Hence it constitutes a danger not only to the region, but also to the whole world. The UN Security Council should have [incomplete sentence as received]. The UN Security Council is now preoccupied with meeting so as to issue war resolutions, to the extent that it has become a war council, and deviates from its original mission of establishing international peace and security, and implementing the resolutions of the international legitimacy in this concern. The Security Council

is now dealing with international legitimacy using various standards. It shelves its resolutions on the Palestinian people's rights and forbids settlements in the occupied territories. And on Israel's continuous violations of human rights, and despite its blatant defiance of international legitimacy by committing more deeds condemned by the UN Security Council, the Council does not dare implement any of its resolutions against the Israelis, while at the same time the major powers race to volunteer to implement its resolutions by force against the Arabs.

The editor concludes his commentary by saying: "Facing these facts, and in the shaddow of the absence of the strategic balance between the Arabs and their enemies, and of the lack of international credibility, the Arabs now have no alternative but to launch a popular war against the foreign forces occupying the Arab land in order to preserve their dignity, restore their rights, and be worthy of occupying their place on earth and under the sun.

UN Arms Embargo Aimed Against Arab States

LD1207201291 Tripoli Great Jamahiryah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Last Tuesday evening, the permanent members of the Security Council concluded their two-day meeting devoted to discussing arms sales. The five states decided to meet again in October.

The U.S. assistant secretary of state for international security for his part said that the meeting had succeeded in accomplishing a new phase of cooperation, entailing coordination among the five states in monopolizing the manufacture and use of weapons, as well as facilitating control over their acquistion by the rest of the world, in line with the policy of the five permanent members, especially with regard to the Arab homeland, which is primarily the target of this arms embargo.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that the five permanent members of the Security Council, which are the largest arms exporters, wished to formulate guidelines for restricting arms sales. And the Chinese news agency cited the head of the Chinese delegation as saying that the states which sell the largest quantity of weapons to the Middle East should bear a special responsibility with regard to the limitation of arms exports.

Anyone who follows events can see clearly that this arms embargo favored by the five members, led by the United States, is aimed particularly at the Arab homeland. The United States is very eager not to let the Arab homeland possess any nuclear capability liable to augment Arab power and threaten the Zionist expansion. The Zionist enemy, which international colonialism has planted in the heart of the Arab homeland, possesses nuclear wepaons and is developing its nuclear industries, and is thus building up an arsenal that threatens the Arab region with extinction. The Zionist enemy openly refuses to sign the international treaty which provides for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. The United States, in a directly aggressive manner, is leading a fierce campaign against the Arab homeland to keep it from possessing any kind of advanced weapons, even defensive ones.

In view of this bad situation and this crooked logic, which enshrines the unjust relations in the international community, under present conditions the Arab homeland is required, more than ever before, to hasten to establish Arab unity. This will secure for it the respect of others, contribute to the realization of a just peace, and achieve economic integration and scientific advancement in the Arab homeland—something which the brother leader of the great September revolution has always called for, in his local and international meetings, in view of the objectives of colonialism in the Arab homeland, and of the seriousness of the situation which threatens the future of the Arab nation under the existing conditions of partition and division.

Reportage on Al-Bishari Visit to France

WA1207123191

For reportage on the visit by Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari to France, including reports on his talks with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, please see the France section of the 11 July West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Mauritania

'Massive Flow' of Voters Attend Referendum 12 Jul

LD1207213591 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Excerpts] A constitutional referendum was held today in Mauritania. Voting began at 0700 and is expected to end in less that half an hour. The proposed text signals the advent of a multiparty system and the return to a civilian regime after 13 years of military power. For the moment there is no precise figure concerning the turnout. We expect to know a bit more during the evening. The Mauritanians are expressing themselves freely on their future; this is the feeling of Mauritanian Interior Minister Sid 'Ahmed Ould Baba:

[Begin recording] [Baba] It started very early this morning. Since the first hours of the day until now, we have been observing a massive flow of people to the voting stations. Voting is proceeding normally. As you know, the referendum is basically a referendum on the constitution which is a very advanced stage of democracy and provides for a healthy multiparty system. For the first time in 30 years, the Mauritanians today are going to the polling station to express themselves on their future freely. This is felt when one meets Mauritanians in the streets. There is an enthusiasm and a passion for these elections that I never noticed in the past.

[Correspondent Boisbouvier] Well, why did you put several opponents under house arrest a month ago?

[Baba] These people were put under house arrest a month ago for having been behind disturbances. They are simply put under house arrest according to a very precise Mauritanian law.

[Boisbouvier] Do you envision a national conference?

[Baba] I think that a national conference was never envisioned in Mauritania. What we envision today is a referendum. Its result will determine the political future of this country. And it is on the basis of this referendum on the constitution that various institutions will be set up. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was a recording made by Christophe Boisbouvier. Many opposition movements called for a boycott of this referendum, a ballot that should not take place while tens of thousands of people are still in exile. This is the feeling of Seri Ba, spokesman of FLAM, the African Forces for the Liberation of Mauritania:

[Begin Ba recording] As far as we are concerned, the referendum is simply an accident of history. It is simply null and void as long as those who have been gagged and tied are not rehabilitated and back in the country. We also recall our demand: First, the holding of a national conference, then the setting up of an international investigation commission which will shed light on the crimes committed since 1986. And we think that decisions that would restore peace and trust in Mauritania should be taken. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] As for the spokesman of the National Democratic Movement, one of the parties which form the the Front of United Democratic Parties, he stresses the obstacles facing the plebiscite, particularly the recent arrest of the main leaders of the opposition. [passage omitted]

Voting 'Completed'

LD1207231891 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Voting on the draft constitution was completed at 1900 today throughout the national territory. Voters that we interviewed in the capital stressed that the rate of response to the general referendum on the draft constitution exceeded the voting rate in the last municipal elections. The same observation was made by the MAURITANIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent.

97.94 Percent Approval Announced

LD1307214791 Nouakchott ORTM Television in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Regarding the confidence reaffirmed by citizens in their leadership and its decisions, the Constitution, which was submitted in a referendum yesterday throughout the country, gained the confidence of the Mauritanian people after obtaining 97.94 percent of the votes cast.

On this occasion, Major Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation, and minister of the interior, post and telecommunications, made the following statement announcing the final results:

[Begin Baba recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Prayers be upon His honorable prophet.

Male and female citizens, we have reached the end of the referendum on the draft constitution, which was submitted to you yesterday. It is a source of pleasure that you have proved, through your extensive participation and enthusiastic turnout at the polling stations in towns, villages, and at every point in our dear homeland, your maturity and awareness of your responsibility toward this homeland.

According to Clause 15 of Presidential Decree 31/44, issued this past 26 January, specifying the practical procedures for the administration of the referendum, I have the honor to announce to you the final results of the referendum at the national level:

Registered voters, 851,121; voters, 731,512; participation, 85.34 percent; invalidated cards, 20; votes cast, 728,492; yes votes, 713,493—that is 97.94 percent; no votes, 14,999—that is 2.06 percent.

I can only commend, on behalf of the national leadership—led by Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state—the spirit of responsibility and the disciplined atmosphere that characterized the referendum, and to address to you our warm congratulations on this occasion.

Brothers and sisters, yet again you have proved your support for the national leadership, which reaffirms to you its determination to continue the democratic process we are about to embark on until it is completed with God's help and your assistance. My brothers and sisters, this objective cannot be achieved without uniting ranks and firmly confronting all those who let themselves be enticed to violate our unity and harm our gains. I feel confident that you will lie in wait for such persons so that we can realize the aspirations and hopes of our Muslim, Arab, African people. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [end recording]

Head of State Comments

LD1207231391 Nouakchott ORTM Television in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Voting on the new draft referendum began throughout the national territory today, Friday, 12 July 1991, as previously scheduled and in satisfactory conditions characterized by the fulfillment of procedures

needed for the holding of the referendum, on the one hand; and the citizens' happiness and delight over this unique event in the history of the country, on the other.

Furthermore, among those who headed for the polling stations this morning was Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state. His excellency the head of state performed his voting duty at polling station No. 4 in (?Tafraghsine) district this morning. The following report is filed by our colleagues Hamou Hedi and Mohamed Mahmoud Oud Deh: [passage omitted]

Col. Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, having cast his ballot in this referendum, answered questions by members of the national press:

[Begin recording] [Taya] As you are aware, everything is new for us in this situation. It is the first time that we have tried to create and practice this form of democracy. We are now awaiting the results of today's referendum. If it turns out to be a yes vote it will be a good thing for further steps. And today will be a historic and great day as far as our country's march is concerned.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, is there anything that you would like to add to the Mauritanian people on this occasion?

[Taya] Yes, I would like to say here that [words indistinct] today is a day which the people and all of us have been longing for for many years. People were demanding this kind of democracy and freedom. Thanks be to God we have now reached it. As you have noticed in the text of the Constitution, it guarantees all sorts of freedoms and democratic institutions. Furthermore, the kind of democracy guaranteed by the Constitution is one of the best and most complete forms of democracy; it is the most comprehensive one as far as institutions in democratic countries are concerned. Therefore, we should congratulate ourselves and wait for the results later today. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Sudan

Al-Bashir 'Ready' To Negotiate With Rebels

EA1207214691 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and Council of Ministers, has stressed that the government has a ready-made peace agenda and that it is ready to sit down and negotiate with the rebel movement. He said this during an interview which his excellency gave to German Television yesterday.

On the human rights situation in Sudan, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stated that Sudan is the only country in the Third World whose prisons are empty of all political detainees. He also spoke about the country's economic situation, saying that [words indistinct] the so-called food gap through the efforts of the state, the private sector, and some friendly countries.

On relief operations, his excellency stated during the interview with German Television that the government has not stopped the activities of those humanitarian organizations working in the relief field which abide by the country's regulations. At the end of the interview, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir gave a brief explanation about the federal and political system in Sudan.

Tunisia

France's Mitterrand Announces Mediterranean Summit

LD1107211891 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2100 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Tunis will welcome the five plus four summit at the beginning of next year. Five Maghreb countries will hold talks with France, Portugal, Italy, and Spain. Francois Mitterrand, who is visiting Tunis this evening, made this announcement. For the French head of state, this represents the foreshadowing of a new Euro-Mediterranean area.

Western Sahara

Ambassador Comments on Morocco's List of Electors

LD1507001191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] According to diplomatic sources, Morocco recently submitted a list of 75,000 people who would be taking part in the expected referendum in Western Sahara. Our colleague Jamila Mezoued contacted the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic ambassador in Algiers by phone and asked him whether this list had been established definitively. He said:

[Begin recording] At the level of the Saharan Government and the Polisario Front, we were surprised when we heard about this report. Following this report, we must present the following clarifications:

1. We bring to mind that there was an agreement between the two sides—the Polisario Front and the Kingdom of Morocco—on the electorate basis. This basis is the list left by the Spanish Government when it left the Sahara in 1975. This agreement was reached between the sides through the secretary general of the United Nations and with the acceptance of the latter.

This is what made the secretary general and his aides focus on this.

2. On 16 October 1990 the UN secretary general presented a list to both sides, list 74, which was left by Spain and on which were figures on the electors. He presented it to both sides and asked them two things. After perusing and studying this list, he asked them to tell him about:

a. the dead and the living on the list;

b. an appeal against this document or a request for this document to be reviewed; such a request cannot be made by decision of one of the two sides because the right of appeal or review against this document is an individual right for every Saharan.

At the end of this month the United Nations will make public the definitive list of names, and when this list is made public, it can be challenged, reviewed, or appealed. [end recording]

Kuwait

Envoys Summoned on Implementing UN Resolutions

LD1507115591 London KUNA in Arabic 1105 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Jul (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry today summoned the ambassadors accredited to Kuwait of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Shaykh Salim al- Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stressed to the five ambassadors the importance of continued adherence to the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council on the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi regime until it complies with all the relevant UN resolutions.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah clarified Kuwait's position, which highlights the importance of cooperation within the international community with a view to achieving the UN goals through the respect, by all states, of the UN resolutions relating to the sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime after the latter announced its pledge to implement resolutions and adhere to them. Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin attended the meeting.

Minister, UN Envoy Discuss Stolen Property

LD1107122991 London KUNA in Arabic 1054 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Kuwait 11 July (KUNA)—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, conferred in his office here today with Richard Foran, UN assistant secretary general, who is currently visiting Kuwait. A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry told KUNA that Mr. Foran "has given Shaykh Salim al-Sabah an explanation of UN efforts to restore Kuwaiti property stolen by the Iraqi regime during its aggressive invasion of Kuwait". The source added that Mr. Foran reviewed the program of the working team commissioned to do this. The team will start with restoring stolen Kuwaiti gold, banknotes, coins, museums artifacts, rare heritage items, and Kuwaiti civilian aircraft.

KUNA has learned that the program to return stolen Kuwaiti property, which will take place in the Saudi town of 'Ar'ar, has a specific "working plan which will begin during the coming weeks with the return of Islamic and National Museum artifacts in view of Iraqi adherence to UN resolutions on this matter".

During his visit to Kuwait, Mr. Foran will meet several officials of the Central Bank, the Islamic Artifact House, and the Ministry of Information to discuss this program. Ambassador Khalid al-Duwaysan, chairman of the committee for listing Kuwaiti losses and damges resulting from the Iraqi aggression, attended the meeting.

PRC's Li Peng Arrives, Meets With Amir

LD1407121291 London KUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 14 Jul (KUNA)—At 1200 this morning, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, received PRC Prime Minister Li Peng and the delegation accompanying him on the occasion of their visit to the country. [passage omitted]

His Highness asked the Chinese guest for representations on the part of his country to the Iraqi regime to secure the release of Kuwaiti prisoners and ascertain the fate of the missing persons. The Chinese guest arrived in Kuwait this morning at 1100 on a state visit to Kuwiat. [passage omitted]

Talks Held With PRC Delegation

LD1407134891 London KUNA in Arabic 1248 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 14 Jul (KUNA)—Talks between Kuwait and the PRC were held here today. The Kuwaiti side was led by His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, while the Chinese delegation was led by PRC Prime Minister Li Peng.

It was officially reported that talks dealt with "the latest developments in the region and regional and international issues of common concern. In addition, ways and means of consolidating the amicable relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries in all fields were discussed." [passage omitted]

At 1300, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, received the PRC prime minister and the delegation accompanying him, at his office at al-Bayan palace.

Li Departs; Results Noted

LD1407165191 London KUNA in Arabic 1637 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 14 Jul (KUNA)—Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, left Kuwait this evening following a brief visit. An official send-off was given to the Chinese guest at Kuwait international airport, led by his highness and heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

At the end of his short visit to Kuwait, the Chinese official emphasized that "China, the government, and the people will continue supporting the just struggle on which Kuwait and its people are embarking to secure their independence, state sovereignty and the integrity of its territory."

In a telegram to his royal highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Li Peng expressed the hope that Kuwait would achieve "continuous new achievements in the operation of reconstruction," and wished Kuwait prosperity, its people happiness, and his highness the best of health and vitality. The Chinese prime minister praised the talks which he conducted in Kuwait, describing them as being conducted in an atmosphere of "sincerity and cordiality, which deepened the mutual understanding and trust between China and Kuwait." [passage omitted]

In a telegram to the Chinese official, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah affirmed that "his visit provided us with a good opportunity to express our feelings and thanks for the Chinese leadership, government, and people for their principled and just stance in rejecting the iniquitous Iraqi invasion of our country, Kuwait, for their constant support to our just cause, and for their assistance in helping Kuwait achieve its independence, sovereignty, and the integrity of its territory."

His highness praised the talks he held with Li Peng, describing them as being "successful and characterized by the spirit of cordiality and compehensive cooperation." Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah emphasized Kuwait's desire to consolidate fruitful cooperation with the PRC in various spheres. [passage omitted]

Military Delegation Set To Visit Syria

LD1407185791 London KUNA in Arabic 1816 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus, 14 Jul (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Jabir Khalid al-Sabah is due to arrive here tomorrow leading a high-level military delegation on a several-day visit to Syria. During the visit, Major General Jabir will hold talks with senior Syrian military officials. They will focus on affirming the pillars of relations of cooperation between Kuwait and Syria. It is expected that the Kuwaiti military official will meet President Hafiz al-Asad during the visit.

RPG Rocket Causes Explosion in Al-Salimiyah

LD1507135791 London KUNA in Arabic 1333 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Jul (KUNA)—The Kuwait Interior Ministry has stated that an explosion took place this morning at a technical production company in the al-Salimiyah area. In a statement released today, the ministry said that the explosion was caused by an RPG rocket [qadhifah] fired by an unknown person. There was Material damage as a result and fire broke out. The statement added that the fire was extinguished by civil defense workers and that the case has been referred to the competent authorities.

'Special Report' on Bush Maintaining Blockade

JN1307173591 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Jul 91 p 6

[Unattributed "special report": "With All Pretexts Aborted by Iraq, Bush Looks for Excuses To Maintain the Aggressive Blockade"]

[Text] In keeping with his hostility toward the Iraqi people and their nationalist leadership, President Bush is pursing his aggressive line against Iraq, using all kinds of bluster and incitement that are typical of the U.S. Administration's notoriously vicious ways. With Iraq on the mend, President Bush is going haywire. He is visibly foundering; casting around for ways to further tighten the oppressive economic blockade on Iraq.

The American television network CNN reports that Bush has been in touch with world leaders, including Husni Mubarak, to get the United Nations to take further action against Iraq. This is being done when voices around the world are clamoring for the lifting of the economic strictures that seek to starve the Iraqi people, and when Iraq has complied with UN resolutions and—as attested to by experts of the world organization—facilitated the task of UN teams sent to inspect Iraq's nuclear capability.

The U.S. Administration has not limited itself to incitement against Iraq; it had spy satellites take pictures of areas where Iraq allegedly stores undeclared nuclear material. Western commentators—including some interviewed on the BBC and Voice of America—note that Iraq has submitted an exhaustive list of its peaceful nuclear facilities and suspects, against the backdrop of an anti-Iraq Zionist and Western drive, that the United States is looking for a pretext to continue the economic blockade, which would be just another aggression against Iraq.

Observers further note that President Bush's renewed advocacy at a 10 July news conference for continuing the economic blockade has betrayed his warlike intentions against Iraq. They further cite his unabashed assertion that only when there is a change of regime in Iraq will Washington restore ties with Baghdad. A self-appointed custodian over the fortunes of others, the U.S. President acts as if he were entitled to decide on the internal affairs of an independent country.

Observers also tie President Bush's logic with calls by Zionist officials and media for another strike at Iraq and its infrastructure. The Zionists went so far as to fault the imperialist allied forces for not going all the way and wiping Iraq off the map.

A report in THE WASHINGTON POST is the latest indication that the United States continues to contemplate further meddling in Iraq's internal affairs. According to the paper, an announcement was likely to be made Friday on the formation of a Turkey-based multinational force to deploy along the length of the Iraqi-Turkish border. It would act as a rapid deployment force to forestall a perceived aggression against Iraqi Kurds.

In the formation of such a force, observers see a U.S. determination to find a foothold for aggression in the region. Coming on the heels of the end of the mission of the aggressive alliance in northern Iraq, the announcement was, so to speak, an attempt by the United States, its forces having been made to leave through the front door, to go back in through the back door.

Hence, in the eyes of observers, the escalation against Iraq and its people by the Bush administration furthers its scenario for a Middle East settlement. The Bush administration is alarmed to see Iraq get its breath again, rebuild itself, mend, and stabilize.

Foreign Minister on Bush Remarks

JN1207190091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad 12 Jul (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has commented on U.S. President George Bush's statements at his news conference on 10 July 1991 on the occasion of the U.S. decision to lift sanctions on South Africa. In a statement to INA, the foreign minister described President Bush as suffering from a severe complex called Saddam Husayn's Iraq. He said that the U.S. President's statements are still characterized by double standards in dealing with regional problems and international issues despite his continued claim that he observes international legitimacy and supports UN and Security Council resolutions.

He added that President Bush's quick decision to lift economic sanctions on the fascist regime in Pretoria, Tel Aviv's ally and partner in nuclear arms without international controls, exposes the U.S. Administration's bias and arrogance toward the majority of the South African people who are suffering apartheid.

The foreign minister added: While the U.S. President forgets his promises to the international community to resolve the Palestine question and the Arab-Zionist conflict in the same way as the Gulf crisis, the administration watches Tel Aviv's continued defiance of the United Nations, the UN Security Council, and world public opinion, and its arrogant refusal to implement any of the resolutions of international legitimacy without America subjecting it to questions, sanctions, or a blockade, as it did with its aggressive concentrations against Iraq. In fact, President Bush is generous in giving financial aid to Tel Aviv to accelerate the immigration and settlement plan. He also provides it with political protection and military support to the point where Israel has become an arsenal and a strategic depot for U.S. weapons to suppress the national ambitions of the people of the region.

The foreign minister scoffed at President Bush's remarks about the U.S. approach to nuclear proliferation. To take out Iraq's nuclear capability, geared to peaceful and

scientific uses, was high on the list of the objectives of the U.S.-Atlantist aggression. The aim, the foreign minister added, was to promote an Israeli plan of which the first chapter was the 1981 strike against the Tammuz reactor.

The foreign minister noted that Israel has not signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, of which Iraq is a signatory, and will not allow any form of inspection or control. Yet far from pressuring Israel to comply with international controls, the American and European indulgence of Israel is such that Tel Aviv has been admitted to the European Nuclear Center. This is despite its treacherous aggression against Iraq's peaceful Tammuz nuclear reactor in Baghdad 7 June 1981.

Mr. Ahmad Husayn added: We are all too aware that President Bush is meeting demands of the world Zionist movement on behalf of Israel—a fact noted by the Zionist justice minister, who said in a television appearance on 11 July that the U.S. President's handling of Iraq's nuclear program was agreeable to the Shamir government.

On President Bush's contention that he has no quarrel with the Iraqi people, the foreign minister commented: It is not only revolting and laughable that the American President should be repeating such statements. He is also underrating the intellect of the people and their awareness and will. The world became aware of the depth of the rancor and hate the White House ruler harbored when his aircraft carriers laid a land, air, and sea siege against Iraq to starve the women, the elderly, and the children, and when he has held back medicines and infant formula for 11 months. President Bush mercilessly made every Iraqi a legitimate military target for his aircraft and lethal missiles in a dirty war unsurpassed in its savagery.

The foreign minister added that with complete awareness and determination, Bush punishes the Iraqi people, seriously contributes to spreading epidemics among them, and daily increases their sufferings and tribulations. The U.S. President grew more infuriated when he realized how much the Iraqis cling to their leader symbol Saddam Husayn in spite of the successive chapters of the military aggression, the economic blockade, the treasonous sabotage by the mobs, the virulent psychological warfare, and the continued conspiracies against Iraq's unity and the fabrication of sedition among the sons of the one people.

We would like to reassure Bush and his allies that Saddam Husayn is Iraq and Iraq is Saddam Husayn, and that any attempt to separate the two will be like trying to separate the pupil from the eye.

Ahmad Husayn concluded his statement by saying: We remind President Bush that interference in the domestic affairs of other countries conflicts with the UN Charter in letter and spirit, and that the peoples' choice of their leaders and systems is a right that no foreigner, no matter what his claim is, can contest. It is impermissible to confuse sick political motives and humanitarian issues, foremost which is the immediate lifting of the unjust blockade on Iraq now that the reasons that made the allies impose it under the pretext of alleged legitimacy no longer exist.

'Insolent' Bush Statements Noted

JN1307085391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH urges Bush, his allies, and America's agents to realize that any attempt to dissuade the Iraqi people from choosing to live freely in an independent country and under a leadership that came from within their ranks is a desperate attempt and a miserable wager.

In an editorial published today, the paper affirms that the Iraqi people, who made immense sacrifices to vindicate their freedom, dignity, and independence through their categorical rejection of the new order for colonialist hegemony, will neither make concessions nor be brought to their knees before the remaining chapters of the conspiracy, regardless of the enormous sacrifices they might be asked to make to live freely and proudly in their homeland and the regional and pan-Arab environment, as well.

The paper condemns the Bush-led anti-Iraq aggressive campaign, which seeks to gravely damage and hurt the Iraqi people. The paper adds: The aggressive anti-Iraq campaign which Bush is putting all his weight behind—the campaign that reflects an open conspiracy—is indicative of a new American criminal act. We do not rule out the launching of a brutal military aggression under flimsy pretexts and contrived commotion, such as the use in an ugly manner of false human rights slogans and the current deliberate deception campaign against Iraq's peaceful nuclear program.

The paper affirms that Bush's determination to interfere in Iraq's purely domestic affairs, his demonstrated desire for colonialist custodianship, and his threats to use force reflect and embody America's determination to consummate the conspiracy against Iraq after previous chapters of the ugly conspiracy failed to achieve their political objectives.

The paper indicates that Bush's insolent statements and his new hostile campaign reflect a desire to go to the limit in the conspiracy; that is, to behead Iraq, divest it of the foundations of independent states and of the right to lead a decent life, and consequently to enslave the Iraqi people, plunder their wealth, and establish an agent regime in Iraq—a regime that does not have a nationalist role and that also accepts the forfeiture of the country's rights and sovereignty, as well as those of the Arab nation.

The paper adds: The international community's silence encourages Washington to continue its efforts to establish its new world order, based on brutal aggression, in order to dominate world resources so that they can all be put at the

disposal of the illegitimate U.S. interests. The paper affirms that international solidarity, coupled with the steadfastness and jihad of the Iraqi people, will be the first real step in confronting this aggressive U.S. obsession.

Concluding its editorial, the paper stresses that the real assets of the steadfast Iraqi people in their confrontation of the conspiracy of aggression and starvation lies in their true jihad in building and reconstruction, and also in their unflinching and constant rallying around the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, since this will make Bush and his allies realize that the attempt to dissuade the Iraqi people is a desperate attempt and a miserable wager.

Arab League Session on U.S. 'Threat' Urged

JN1307200091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1813 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Iraq has called for an expeditious, urgent session of the Arab League at the ministerial level to look into the new U.S. threat to which it is being subjected, and the implied threat to Arab national security. This came in a message sent by Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn to Dr. Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League. Following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency Esteemed Dr. 'Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League—Cairo:

Iraq has accepted all the resolutions issued by the Security Council and has shown readiness to cooperate with the Security Council, the UN secretary general, and his representatives to seriously implement these resolutions in good faith, in spite of Iraq's profound feeling that these resolutions are unjust and unfair and emphasize the double standards pursued by the Security Council and superpowers when dealing with issues in the region.

Over the past months, Iraq has seriously and actively honored its commitments despite repeated attempts to cast aspersions on its intentions and the threats and confusion that accompanied these attempts. Moreover, when some obscurity covered the mission of the inspection teams, Iraq showed its readiness to receive the committee sent by the UN secretary general and headed by Mr. Ekeus. The committee met with high-level officials in Iraq and a serious dialogue was undertaken to facilitate its mission and overcome the obstacles that could arise during its work, especially under the very difficult circumstances that Iraq is experiencing in the communications, transportation, and services sector as a result of the military actions against it between 17 January and 28 February which resulted in great damage to Iraq's infrastructure.

The higher committee headed by Mr. Ekeus was given categorical affirmations to all its requests concerning the security and safety of the inspection teams—which were not subject to any form of danger—or on facilitating their mission as stipulated by Security Council resolutions.

While the committee was in Baghdad, all practical measures were taken to facilitate the inspection mission as deemed appropriate by the committee and noted in its report to the Security Council.

In response to the suggestion Mr. Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], made during discussions in Baghdad, the Iraqi Government presented a lengthy list of all the devices, equipment, and locations that were of interest to the committee and explained the history and nature of the peaceful Iraqi nuclear program, as was explained in the foreign minister's letter. This could have been part of Mr. Ekeus' mission in Baghdad and its outcome had he responded to the foreign minister's request to extend his stay in Baghdad for one more day. The letter explained the legitimate reasons that the Iraqi Government had not provided this information before then.

The foreign minister continued to answer all questions directed at him by the IAEA director concerning details of his letter on the lists and the program. Your Excellency can see the foreign minister's two letters addressed to Mr. Blix and dated 10 and 12 July 1991. Moreover, our ambassador in Vienna, who is Iraq's permanent representative to the IAEA, presented an official explanation to the director general concerning the observations that were raised during the unofficial meeting of the board of governors held last week, as well as Mr. Blix's observations.

Despite all this and Iraq's active and serious cooperation concerning this and other issues related to implementing the UN Security Council resolutions, the United States launched and is still launching—before, during, and after the committee's visit—a wide-scale and feverish campaign of threats to mount new military aggression against Iraq. The U.S. officials are openly talking about their intention to launch this aggression and about their preparations and means to this end. Likewise, the U.S. officials used this issue as an another pretext to continue imposing an economic blockade on Iraq, interfering in its internal affairs, and imposing their will on the free Iraqi people in a manner that flagrantly contravenes international laws and conventions and the provisions of the UN Security Council resolutions themselves.

The United States is now preparing a comprehensive new military aggression against Iraq. As a pretext for this aggression, the United States is announcing that it intends to strike the sites and equipment that interested the high-level committee. Iraq has said before and now reiterates its full readiness to allow the UN inspection teams to visit any of these sites and equipment and to deal with them in accordance with the Security Council resolutions. Why then is the United States resorting to military means if it is really seeking to implement the UN Security Council resolutions?

The correct conclusion that can be drawn from all these statements by U.S. officials is that the United States wants to launch this new aggression to realize political

aims that have nothing to do with UN resolutions or interests. Thus, the United States is pursuing what it started on 17 January when it exploited Security Council Resolution 687; not to drive the Iraqi Armed Forces from Kuwait, but to destroy Iraq's economic resources, its infrastructure, and the landmarks of its scientific and cultural progress. This action is to realize its aims and those of Zionism of fully controlling the Middle East. Now the United States is preparing to implement another chapter in its plot after failing to realize its aims between 17 January and 28 February 1991 and subsequent events in which the United States played a primary role.

Mr. Secretary General, Iraq, an Arab state and a founding member of the Arab League is again being exposed to the threat of all-out military aggression by the United States. Once again, the Security Council's resolutions and concerns are being put forward as a pretext and cover for this aggression. Iraq has accepted the Security Council resolutions, despite a legitimate feeling against them, and has announced and declared a commitment to their implementation. To that end, Iraq stands ready to cooperate with the committee and the UN secretary general.

The issue now is not a political one among the Arab states, as the situation was during the Kuwait problem, but it is an issue of the sovereignty, safety, and security of an Arab state, the fate of its people, and their right to live a decent life.

Based on pan-Arab ties and common destiny and in accordance with the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact, pan-Arab responsibilities make it incumbent on all Arab states and on the Arab League to adopt an urgent, clear, and unambiguous stand on this aggression being feverishly prepared against Iraq on a large scale. Accordingly, Iraq calls for an urgent emergency session of the Arab League Council on the ministerial level to look into the threats to which Iraq is being exposed and all the implied and direct threats against pan-Arab security.

With my regards.

[Signed] Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

Foreign Minister Writes UN on U.S. 'Threats'

JN1307205091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1803 GMT 13 Jul 91

["Text" of letter from Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the UN Security Council president "on the United States' threats to carry out a new comprehensive military aggression against Iraq"—dated 13 July]

[Text] Your Excellency:

Iraq has accepted all the UN Security Council resolutions and shown its readiness to cooperate with the Security Council, the UN secretary general, and his representative, to seriously implement these resolutions in good faith despite Iraq's profound feeling that these resolutions are unjust and unfair. Over the past months, Iraq has actively and seriously honored its commitments despite the repeated attempts to cast aspersions on its intentions and to cover these attempts by means of threats and distortion.

When obscurity covered the work of the inspection teams, Iraq showed its readiness to receive the committee appointed by the UN secretary general, which was headed by Mr. Ekeus. The committee was received at the highest level in Iraq. A serious and practical dialogue was held with the committee to facilitate its mission and to overcome the obstacles that could arise during work, particularly under the very difficult circumstances Iraq is experiencing in the communications, transportation, and services sector as a result of the military actions that targeted it between 17 January and 28 February, which resulted in great damage to Iraq's infrastructure.

Categorical assurances were given to the higher committee led by Mr. Ekeus regarding all its requests, whether those related to the safety and security of the inspection teams—which were not exposed to any form of danger—or whether the means to facilitate its task accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

While the committee was in Baghdad, all practical measures were taken to facilitate the inspection mission as seen appropriate by the committee, and noted in its report to the Security Council.

Responding to the proposal of Mr. Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], which he made during deliberations in Baghdad, the Iraqi Government presented a comprehensive list of all the devices, equipment, and sites that are of interest to the committee, and explained the history and nature of the peaceful Iraqi nuclear program, as was also explained in the foreign minister's letter. This could have been part of Mr. Ekeus' mission in Baghdad and its outcome, had he responded to the foreign minister's request to extend his stay in Baghdad for one more day. I say that the letter explained the legitimate reasons the Iraqi Government had not provided this information before then.

The foreign minister continued to answer all the questions posed to him by the IAEA director general regarding the details of his letter that dealt with the list and the program. Your excellency can read the foreign minister's letters to Mr. Blix dated 10 and 12 July 1991. Moreover, our ambassador in Vienna, who is Iraq's permanent representative to the IAEA, presented an official clarification to the director general regarding the remarks that were made during the unofficial meeting of the board of governors, held last night [as heard], as well as Mr. Blix' remarks.

Despite all this and Iraq's serious and active cooperation Iraq showed regarding this and other issues related to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, the United States launched, and is still launching—before, during, and after the committee's visit—a feverish large-scale campaign of threats to carry out a new military aggression against Iraq.

American officials now publicly talk about their intention to launch this aggression and preparations toward that end and the options open to them. U.S. officials have used this issue as an additional pretext to maintain the economic blockade on Iraq, interfering in its internal affairs, and imposing their will on the people of Iraq in clear violation of international laws and norms and the letter and spirit of the UN Security Council resolutions themselves.

The United States is now preparing an all-out military aggression against Iraq, declaring by way of justification that it seeks to strike the sites and equipment that interested the high-level committee. Iraq has declared and now reiterates its full preparedness to allow UN inspection teams access to all these sites and equipment and deal with them in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. Why then is the United States resorting to military action if it is really interested in implementing the Security Council resolutions?

One can only conclude from the statements of American officials that by this fresh aggression the United States wants to promote political ends that have nothing to do with the Security Council resolutions. It is thus pursuing what it began on 17 January 1991 when it exploited Security Council resolution 687; not to oust the Iraqi Armed Forces from Kuwait as stipulated by the resolution, but to destroy Iraq's economic potential, its infrastructure, and its scientific and cultural facilities in the interest of its objectives and those of Zionism to gain complete control of the Middle East.

Now the United States is preparing to implement another chapter of this plan, having failed to attain all its objectives between 17 January and 28 February 1991 and the subsequent events in which the United States played a major role.

Your Excellency:

Once again, Iraq is being threatened with full-scale military aggression by the United States. Once again, the Security Council's resolutions and concerns are being put forward as a pretext and cover for this aggression. Iraq has accepted the Security Council resolutions, despite a legitimate feeling against them, and has announced and declared a commitment to their implementation, and to that end stands ready to cooperate with the committee and the UN secretary general. It is assumed that the Security Council will not allow one of its members to act in the name of the council to advance its own aggressive and expansionist ends that are in conflict with international law, values, and norms.

It is hoped that the Security Council will put a limit on this aggressive American conduct against a free, independent member state of the United Nations and the international community that has suffered from aggression and whose people are still reeling from an unfair and biased economic blockade. It is hoped the council members that appreciate their responsibilities toward security, peace, and peoples' rights to freedom, dignity, and independence will take the stand entailed by their legal obligations and free conscience as council members to prevent this new chapter of the American aggression against Iraq.

[Signed] Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

13 July 1991

'Weakening' Baghdad May Cause Regional Instability

JN1407102191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0759 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jul (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has warned of the grave regional consequences of the U.S. policy against Iraq. In a report today the paper said that if U.S. officials really seek security and stability in the region, they should stop handcuffing Iraq, lift the economic siege, allow it to export its oil and goods and import its domestic needs, and abandon the plan of divesting Iraq of its self-defense weapons.

The paper pointed out that going too far in implementing this plan would prompt neighboring countries to provoke Iraq and would increase foreign ambitions against it. In this respect, AL-JUMHURIYAH referred to what Iran is doing at present, noting that Tehran is not hiding its expanionist aims against Iraq and the Arab world.

It added: The entire region will be swept by regional wars and instability as a result of the changes brought about by divesting Iraq of its power. It emphasized that the plan of weakening and fragmenting Iraq will not succeed, recalling that after World War I the allied forces failed to shackle Germany with the Versailles Treaty.

The paper predicted that the U.S. Administration's unilateral decisionmaking on world affairs will not last long because the chances for change are still there, particularly in the Soviet Union, which is expected to halt its descent into the American valley, restore the dual superpower status, and prevent the peddling of U.S. resolutions in the Security Council.

UN Envoy Meets Inspection Commission Head

JN1407080091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2025 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] New York, 13 Jul (INA)—'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations, met in New York today with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the special commission entrusted with

inspecting Iraq's nuclear installations. An INA correspondent quoted the Iraqi delegate as telling reporters after the meeting that they reviewed the inspection operations currently under way in Iraq.

Al-Anbari added that Iraq's recent letter on its peaceful nuclear program contained all the facts, which international inspectors can ascertain through their observations. The Iraqi delegate indicated that his meeting with Ekeus is part of his current consultations with ambassadors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC], with the UNSC president, and also with ambassadors of the nonaligned members of the UNSC.

Al-Anbari affirmed that Iraq has fully complied with international resolutions and is extending full cooperation to the international inspectors who are visiting Iraq for this purpose.

Austrian Paper on 'Comprehensive' Nuclear Program

AU1207130591 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 12 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[Gerhard Bitzan report: "Iraq's Nuclear Bomb Is Only a Question of Time; Vienna IAEA Skeptical"]

[Text] Vienna—The Iraqi plans to produce nuclear weapons are obviously more comprehensive than originally assumed. After Baghdad admitted that it has secret nuclear programs, the United States has gathered new information about places where nuclear weapons could be located underground. Hans Blix, director general of the Vienna international nuclear authority IAEA admits in an interview with DIE PRESSE that Baghdad might have further material that could be used for nuclear weapons. In addition, he complains about the lack of cooperation by the Iraqi authorities.

According to a report by the U.S. NBC television network, U.S President George Bush is currently thinking about a military attack to destroy Iraq's existing nuclear potential. The responsible ministry is currently concluding plans for an attack to destroy the remaining nuclear potential. According to NBC, Iraq's nuclear program is obviously far more comprehensive than originally assumed. Baghdad reacted by saying that Bush is "malicious."

In an interview with DIE PRESSE, IAEA Director General Hans Blix commented cautiously on the potential of the Iraqi nuclear program, but he did not deny that Baghdad might still have many things hidden. Asked how long it would have taken for Iraq to achieve the capability to produce nuclear weapons, Blix said: "I cannot comment on the timeframe. I must leave that to the experts and to the conclusions reached by our inspection missions." However: "If a country has the technical possibilities to enrich uranium, it is only a question of resources and time until it has a sufficient amount to produce nuclear weapons." Even though the Iraqis said that they do not have any intentions to do this, Blix said, and the discovered uranium was only slightly enriched, "one cannot read intentions from material. The international community must assess Iraq's intentions."

On Monday [8 July] Baghdad presented a 29-page report announcing that it has nuclear research programs which have not been published so far and a small amount of enriched uranium. Now the IAEA is in the process of verifying the information. The stay of a team of 37 experts has been extended because of the new development to check Baghdad's information, "which they provided under much pressure."

"We cannot assess whether this information is complete. Perhaps there is still more. I do not know. We were ordered by the UN secretary general to inspect sites and facilities because they had received new information from satellite photos."

Blix can "only speculate" on the reason Baghdad suddenly passed on part of its secret information to the IAEA. One reason might be that "they preferred publishing this big list in one piece over having to see it revealed bit by bit by our inspectors." The second reason could be, according to Blix, that "they were aware of the fact that without substantive cooperation the international pressure on Baghdad would rise and the pressure in the UN Security Council would also increase."

Blix also criticized the lack of cooperation by Baghdad. After two inspection teams had been refused access to facilities in Iraq in June, the UN secretary general sent a high-ranking delegation to Baghdad, which Blix also joined. "Of course, the denial of access sparked our suspicion. Photos also confirmed that suspicious material was removed while the inspectors had to wait." As a result, the Blix commission met with high-ranking politicians. "There were no signs of more intensive cooperation."

One of the tasks of the inspection team now is working out a plan to remove material that can be used for nuclear weapons and has to be destroyed in line with UN Resolution 687. There is cooperation with the British and the French for this purpose; private companies "with extensive experience" will remove the material. This is difficult because much is still under the debris of bombed facilities. Even more complicated is the matter regarding material that is already emitting radioactivity.

Iraq Asks United Nations For Permission To Sell Oil

On Wednesday Iraq again asked the United Nations for permission to sell oil at a value of $1.5 billion. The revenues are to be used to buy foodstuffs and urgently needed pharmaceuticals for the civilian population, says a letter by Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir to the UN Sanction Committee. According to information from the United Nations, the committee will discuss Iraq's request on Thursday.

Envoy Rejects Claim of Nuclear Arms Production

AU1507090091 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 15 Jul 91 p 2

[Gerhard Bitzan report: "Baghdad's Ambassador to Vienna: U.S. Campaign Against Saddam"]

[Text] Vienna—Rahim al-Kital, the Iraqi ambassador to Vienna, has rejected the reproach that his country is preparing the production of nuclear weapons. He said that this was a campaign mounted by the United States, which has only one goal in mind—replacing the Iraqi leadership.

Commenting on the letter that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry sent to the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Al-Kital said that being a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iraq was entitled to carry out a peaceful nuclear research program, including the enrichment of uranium. That was the only thing Iraq had done, he said. He added that nothing in this program was at the stage of production, but everything was in the research area. Al-Kital said that in the scope of this program, Baghdad also had a small quantity of nuclear material, and this was half a kilogram of uranium, which was 4 percent enriched. This was the only thing Baghdad had admitted in its letter, the ambassador said.

Al-Kital said that "the United States is now claiming that we have more. It only says so because Bush wants there to be a change in our state leadership at any cost. He, the leader of the biggest democratic country, went so far as to encourage our Army to stage a coup."

Al-Kital also explained why the IAEA inspectors who were in Iraq two weeks ago had been refused access to the nuclear facilities: "We wanted to postpone the inspection because there were holidays. Nonetheless, the inspectors, most of whom were Americans, went on their own initiative, even into military camps."

"It was a misunderstanding. Soon afterward, the inspectors were given free access to all facilities. Saddam Husayn gave orders to fully cooperate with them and to give them full access to all facilities."

Saddam, 'Arafat Discuss Palestine, Arab Issues

JN1307202491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. They reviewed the latest developments in the Palestine question and the Arab situation. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

'Arafat on Mubarak 'Warning'

NC1407140391 Paris AFP in English 1348 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, July 14 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has heeded a warning from his Egyptian counterpart Husni Mubarak about the need to cooperate with U.N. nuclear arms experts, Arab diplomatic sources said here Sunday.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, who travelled from Baghdad to Amman, is about to deliver a "positive" response to Egyptian authorities regarding "Iraq's disposition to cooperate entirely" with the experts, the sources said.

"After a 16-hour visit to Iraq and a very long talk with President Saddam Husayn, the PLO leader left with assurances that Iraq is not hiding nuclear weapons sites and is ready to cooperate fully with the U.N.," they said.

The Palestine Liberation Organization chairman delivered Mr. Mubarak's message to the Iraqi leader during his visit Saturday to Baghdad, the sources said.

Iraq meanwhile submitted a new list of its nuclear potential to an International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] team after the United Nations deemed two previous lists incomplete, a source close to the IAEA panel said.

Mr. Mubarak warned Mr. Husayn that Iraq faced a "destructive attack" if U.N. officials were blocked from inspecting nuclear sites, the Egyptian news agency MENA reported Saturday.

The Egyptian president asked his Iraqi counterpart "to take his message seriously and not to behave as he had during his occupation of Kuwait," the agency reported.

It was the 33rd message from the Egyptian leader to Mr. Husayn since Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2. All previous messages received no answer, MENA said.

The message delivered to Mr. Husayn by a "third party" came a day after the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council called on Baghdad to reveal immediately the location and nature of its nuclear facilities.

The U.N. and IAEA have been refused access to certain nuclear sites in Iraq.

Saddam, 'Arafat Claimed To Form 'Special Force'

PM1207150291 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 11 Jul 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Secret Agreement Between Saddam Husayn and 'Arafat To Transfer 10,000 Palestinian Fighters From Lebanon to Baghdad; 'Special Force' and Terrorist Networks To Hit Kuwaiti and Gulf Interests"]

[Text] London, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Informed and reliable sources have revealed details of a secret agreement concluded between the head of the Iraqi regime, Saddam Husayn, and Yasir 'Arafat whereby 10,000 Palestinian fighters in southern Lebanon will be sneaked out and into Iraq. The sources say that these fighters will be attached to neither the Palestine Liberation Army nor the commando units that have been in Iraq since 1982, but to a "special force" formed by the Iraqi regime from Palestinian, Yemeni, Sudanese, Jordanian, and other Arab mercenaries in the early days of the occupation of Kuwait, in addition to terrorist networks formed to hit Kuwait and Kuwaiti and Gulf interests. At present that force consists of some 5,000 members. It has participated with the Iraqi regime's forces in terrorizing the Kuwaiti people and in pursuing members of the secret resistance against the occupation. The force was also used by the Iraqi regime to quell the March uprisings which followed the Iraqi regime's defeat in the battle to liberate Kuwait. According to informed sources, the force is deployed in the Iraqi Republican Guards' Abu-Gharib camp in the western sector of Baghdad.

The sources say that the agreement was reached after the Lebanese Army's deployment in the South which brought Palestinian camps' security under the Lebanese Army's supervision after heavy and medium weapons were handed over to the legitimate Lebanese authorities. They add that under the agreement reached between Saddam Husayn and 'Arafat, these gunmen would be moved to a third Arab country such as Sudan or Yemen, or most probably Algeria, and will then be individually filtered out to Iraq via Jordan. What is new in this agreement is that it goes beyond trying to find a "refuge" for the Palestinian gunmen to actually using them as a strike force to protect Saddam's regime against any military coup attempt or popular uprising.

The informed sources further say that under the agreement the force will, after reorganization, be stationed in al-Ramadi camp under the command of the chief of the "special guard" which comprises the cream of the Republican Guard and has the task of protecting Saddam Husayn, his processions, and his palaces. The force is to be used in parallel with the Republican Guard, which is the only force currently allowed to remain in Baghdad since Saddam's personal orders banning entry of any Iraqi Army regular units into Baghdad following the June coup attempt as a result of which 18 senior officers and scores of lower ranks and unit commanders were executed.

Citing reports on the activities of the "special force" now in Baghdad, the sources say that the Iraqi intelligence authorities will select some of the Palestinian fighters to reinforce terrorist networks attached to these authorities for the purpose of carrying out underground armed operations against Kuwait; Kuwaiti interests; Gulf states, figures, and establishments; and other targets.

In conclusion, the informed sources say that the question of joint Iraqi-Palestinian terrorist operations under Arab names and under the names of imaginary organizations with members from various Arab countries was discussed after Iraq's defeat by leaders of the Iraqi regime and some Palestinian leaderships, including extremist religious leaderships.

UN's Aga Khan Calls for Lifting Sanctions

NC1207151991 Paris AFP in English 1418 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, July 12 (AFP)—Saddrudin Aga Khan, head of a United Nations humanitarian mission to Iraq, has called for the lifting of U.N.-imposed sanctions against the country, the ruling Ba'th party newspaper AL-THAWRAH said Friday. "We must lift the economic sanctions against Iraq. I am very moved every time I see the suffering of the population brought on by the situation," Prince Saddrudin said. He also said that the agricultural sector was suffering due to the lack of irrigation water.

The U.N. delegation includes officials from UNICEF, the World Food Program, and the World Health Organization. It is in charge of evaluating the humanitarian situation in Iraq and the effects of the sanctions on the population. The prince was expected to meet Friday with Kurdish opposition leaders, including Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leader Jalal Talabani and Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) chief Mas'ud Barzani, informed sources said here. Kurdish leaders are in Baghdad to continue negotiations with the government, interrupted three weeks ago, on an accord on the future of Kurdistan.

Asked by journalists whether an accord would be signed, Mr. Talabani said "we hope so". Mr. Barzani declined to comment on the talks.

Earlier Friday, the U.N. delegate met with Shiite leader Ayatollah Kho'i in the city of al-Najaf, U.N. sources here said. The leader, more than 90 years old, was rumored to have died about 10 days ago. He was last publicly seen in a television interview with President Saddam Husayn during the Shiite rebellion in March.

Comments on Aim of Mission to Iraq

JN1307175791 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Jul 91 pp 1, 7

[Interview with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive envoy of the UN secretary general, by Sadiq Bakhan in Baghdad—date not given]

[Text] [Bakhan] Allow me, your highness, to start my interview with the classic introduction of describing you as a highly cultured person, in the classical meaning of the word. What is the objective of your visit to Iraq?

[Aga Khan] I am carrying out this mission to get a picture of how to solve the problems from which Iraq and the Iraqi people are suffering, and to determine the effects of the economic siege on both sides. I have been

asked to evaluate the effects on food, medicine, and electricity. Here, I need to say that we visited numerous areas of Iraq. We traveled to the south and succeeded in forming a clear picture of the situation there.

[Bakhan] How do you find the cooperation of officials in helping you to carry out your mission?

[Aga Khan] We have found that the officials are cooperating very well. As you know, we started our work last March when we held meetings with the ministers of health, agriculture and irrigation, and others. In fact, we found them to be quite cooperative. We hope they will support our humanitarian efforts in these fields. We are also trying to set up humanitarian centers to provide all types of aid.

[Bakhan] Since you represent a humanitarian organization, how do you view the economic siege on Iraq, irrespective of talk about international legitimacy and resolutions taken by the Security Council? The second part of the question is: Has the time come for you to work on lifting the siege?

[Aga Khan] As is known, the Security Council resolutions are political resolutions and we are forced to obey and abide by these resolutions. At the same time, my responsibilities are humanitarian in nature. Despite that, in the course of events, we have found out that humanity and politics do not go together. I believe that the economic siege is not intended to harm the Iraqi people.

[Bakhan] Allow me to interrupt you, your highness, and ask whether you really believe the economic siege is not intended to harm the Iraqi people?

[Aga Khan] As you know, the resolutions issued by the Security Council have not banned humanitarian necessities from the Iraqi people. The fields that have been harmed as a result of this siege have included electrical power, which is out of order, leaving behind various effects on other fields of life such as sewage systems and drinking water, since we know there were huge amounts of water in Iraq before the aggression on it. Here we found a contradiction and our mission concentrated on presenting a very detailed analysis of the effects these aspects had on the Iraqi people, while concentrating on the people's sufferings. Here, I must affirm that we need to do something quickly regarding this situation.

[Bakhan] We have noticed that UN relief aid is scarce compared to what is given, for example, to Kuwait. Is it not the United Nations' duty to lift the economic embargo? Why is Iraq not allowed to open its economic channels and outlets at a time when an entire people are suffering from shortages of food, medicine, and the other necessities of a civilized life?

[Aga Khan] We did not extend aid to Kuwait. Moreover, the UN Security Council calls for abiding by its resolutions. Some people say that this will not affect the people. I understand the Sanctions Committee will discuss this issue. I should say that they are very strict regarding oil exports. In general, we will submit a report on the hardship suffered as a result of the economic blockade.

[Bakahn] Our last question your highness is: Can you give us your impressions of your visit to Iraq?

[Aga Khan] Perhaps you know that this is my third visit to Iraq over a very short period of time. In fact, every time I return here I am impressed by the changes that have taken place, particularly in Baghdad. I see many lights and traffic jams. The truth is that the Iraqis' ability to adapt to various circumstances is excellent and marvelous. I was touched by the existing suffering resulting from recent circumstances. I was also touched when I found that crops will be affected by the water shortage, which will consequently cause a food shortage. In fact, I am very interested in and concerned about this issue. We have important work ahead of us to help people. There are some Kurds in countries neighboring Iraq. They should return to their areas, and they must be helped to return to their country. We hope that the United Nations will help with this. Although they are modest contributions, they will contribute to the stability of the situation and will confront the people's suffering until the UN Security Council lifts the economic blockade. We have discussed these issues with the Iraqi authorities. The economic blockade has a huge effect on people's lives, and this blockade must be lifted. I am interested in the people's suffering from the humanitarian angle.

Post-script: At the outset of the interview, I told Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan that my questions might be long. He said laughing: This is why my answers will be short. I asked him whether he is interested in literature and art. He said that he is interested in the environment and its protection. He said: Unfortunately, we have polluted planet Earth and disrupted natural resources. Man proved to be a bad custodian of Earth. He said that by giving lectures, he tried to contribute to bolstering the awareness of planet Earth's importance.

Recommends Unfreezing Iraqi Deposits

JN1207181491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1743 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive envoy of the UN secretary general, has stressed that the continuation of the blockade against Iraq will have serious repercussions on its infrastructure. At a news conference today attended by correspondents of television networks, news agencies, and newspapers around the world, as well as INA, he said that he would recommend in his report to the United Nations that Iraqi deposits be immediately unfrozen to enable the country to buy food and medicine, and to deal with the obvious shortage of these items, which has begun to affect living conditions. He added that the food and medicine shortage has caused the death of 6,000 children; 170,000 others are facing death.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan stressed the importance of separating political issues from humanitarian issues. He noted that one of the objectives of his visit is to bolster the efforts of relief aid for humanitarian purposes. He said that if the blockade goes on for another year, Iraq will need $2 billion simply to meet 70 percent of its needs. Replying to journalists' questions, he added that southern Iraq also suffers from food and medicine shortages just as other areas in Iraq do.

Members of the delegation accompanying Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan attending the news conference expressed fear that the continued blockade against Iraq would bring on the onset of a catastrophe as a result of food, medicine, and power shortages which can cause the spread of epidemics such as cholera, typhoid, and other diseases.

Notes Progress of Dialogue With Kurds

JN1207193891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive envoy of the UN secretary general, has stressed that the continuation of the blockade against Iraq will have serious repercussions on its infrastructure. [passage omitted]

Replying to journalists' questions, Sadruddin Aga Khan refuted reports that Ayatollah Abolqasem Kho'i had been placed under house arrest or that a number of his family members had been detained. He said he paid a private visit to Ayatollah Abolqasem Kho'i at his residence in the city of al-Kufah and that he is in good condition and takes care of his family members. On his meeting with Mr. Talabani and the progress of dialogue between the Iraqi Government and the Kurdish parties, Sadruddin Aga Khan expressed optimism that the two sides would reach an agreement. [passage omitted]

Says Cooperation With Baghdad Excellent

JN1307104391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the UN secretary general's executive envoy, left Baghdad today at the end of a several-day visit to Iraq. Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan termed very excellent the outcome of his talks with Iraqi officials and the cooperation between Iraq and the international organization.

In a statement to INA, he expressed his high appreciation for the Iraqi authorities, who provided him and the members of the UN delegation with all the necessary facilities to accomplish their mission and duty in Iraq. During his visit, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan held talks with Iraqi officials. The talks focused on the scope of cooperation existing between the world body and Iraq. He also toured some Iraqi governorates, including residential sections of the marshland areas.

PUK's Talabani Urges Lifting of Sanctions

JN1307170391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Tikrit, 13 Jul (INA)—Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has appealed to the Security Council and to international organizations to lift the economic blockade on Iraq and its people.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Salah-al-Din Governorate, he stressed the importance of the international organization lifting the economic blockade on Iraq to make room for the investment of its resources to meet the basic needs of its people and achieve a standard of living that befits them, and to contribute to developing and promoting Iraq. He described the negotiations between the political leadership and the Kurdish parties as positive.

Jalal Talabani had earlier met with Salah-al-Din Governor Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan. They exchanged views on the agricultural situation. He stressed the need for efforts by all the sons of Iraq to increase agricultural produce and ensure Iraq's needs for modern agricultural equipment and machinery, and to devote expertise and maximum energies to agricultural production.

Terms Saddam Meeting 'Positive'

JN1407074491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jul (INA)—Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has said the delegation of Kurdish parties currently in Baghdad represents the consensus of Iraqi Kurds in regard to continuing the dialogue and attaining positive final results. In an interview with the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published today, Talabani added that Mas'ud Barzani is fully authorized to complete the dialogue with the government delegation in accordance with a unanimous decision made recently by the Kurdistan Front. Talabani termed his meeting with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on 11 July positive and affirmed that an announcement on an autonomous rule agreement is imminent. He added that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is giving the dialogue special attention.

Comments on Agreement With Government

JN1507085991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jul (INA)—Mr. Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has affirmed that President Saddam Husayn is pushing dialogue between the Kurdish parties' front and the government toward a solution proceeding from his concern over strengthening Arab-Kurdish brotherhood and entrenching national unity. In an interview published in the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, he said that his meeting with the president was cordial, frank, and very positive.

We hope it will result in good things. He expressed his optimism over the results of the dialogue.

He added that we consider President Saddam Husayn to be the just leadership to whom we can resort and with whom we can find solutions to reaching an agreement that aims at consolidating national unity. He said the way is open before us to reach agreement since all Iraqis are hoping to strengthen national unity and solve problems in a democratic, friendly, and cordial manner.

Mr. Jalal Talabani said: We in the Kurdistan Front are determined to strengthen Iraqi national unity on the basis of Arab- Kurdish brotherhood and the deep historic roots and equality between the two ethnic groups—Arab and Kurdish—in all political and social rights.

He added: We believe in the need to find a democratic and peaceful political solution to the Kurdish problem. We also stress that we need to avoid fighting between brothers once again, in a definitive manner. This means there is no going back to strikes or fighting between the brothers.

He referred to the primary discussions and the meeting with the president that took place, as well as the agreement on general principles. He affirmed that there has been no disagreement over democracy, normalization of the situation in Kurdistan, autonomy, expansion of the area, or bolstering Iraqi unity.

He said that having the honor of meeting with President Saddam Husayn made me feel that we will definitely reach agreement. He added that all the parties of the Kurdistan Front delegation are determined to bring dialogue to a final and positive agreement. When I visited the president, I affirmed to him that we in the front are all united, in agreement, and determined to make the dialogue succeed.

Mr. Jalal Talabani stressed that the Kurdistan Front has authorized Mr. Mas'ud Barzani to resume dialogue with the participation of a group of the Kurdistan party leaders.

Ibrahim Chairs Meeting With Kurdish Leaders

JN1307174191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1722 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, chaired a session of talks here today with a delegation of Kurdish parties, led by Mas'ud Barzani. The two sides agreed to resume the dialogue.

Saddam Receives Cable From Kurdish Council

JN1407151791 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from Baha' al-Din Ahmad, head of the Legislative Council of Iraq's Kurdistan. The cable says:

I have the honor to extend to you in my name and on behalf of the members of the Legislative Council and the masses of our Kurdish people our warmest congratulations, beseeching Almighty God to enable us to welcome this occasion time and again while we are enjoying further progress and prosperity under your fluttering banner.

Mr. Leader President, the enlighten meaning and lessons of this great occasion will provide our Iraqi people—Arabs and Kurds—with more power, patience, and firmness to vigorously and decisively confront all the chapters of conspiracy being concocted by U.S. imperialism and all the forces of evil, tyranny, and aggression.

Our people will continue to make sacrifices to rebuild what was destroyed by the treacherous American-Atlantic aggression and to achieve progress and development in Iraq under the banner of glory and pride—the banner of God is great.

Kurds Protest Allied Troop Withdrawal From North

NC1307140991 Paris AFP in English 1334 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Habur, Iraq, July 13 (AFP)—Hundreds of Kurds from the Iraqi city Zakho blocked the Turkish-Iraq border in protest Saturday against the departure of allied forces from northern Iraq. Protestors carried signs saying: "Don't leave us. Who will protect us." They also shouted: "Long live Bush and down with Saddam," in reference to the U.S. and Iraqi presidents.

U.S. officers said 4,000 other people protested at the entrance to Zakho, about 15 kilometers (nine miles) from the Turkish border, and were forbidden from going to the frontier. Kurdish guerrilla leaders arrived at the protest site in a bid to calm the crowd.

"We will have an agreement with the Iraqi Government and in any case the allies will stay in Iraq as part of the Iraqi-allied military coordination committee," Fadil Mirani, a Kurdish official, told them. Mr. Mirani told the news media that the Kurdish guerrillas, known as peshmergas, will oppose the presence of Irai troops at the frontier and only allow Iraqi police who will have to work with the peshmergas.

Memo to UN Cites U.S. Air Activity 10-11 Jul

JN1207173491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1718 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] New York, 12 Jul (INA)—Iraq has once again protested U.S. aircraft violations of Iraq's airspace. In a memorandum to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent UN representative said that U.S. air activity in Iraq's airspace for 10-11 July totaled 37 air sorties made up of 18 two-plane formations and one individual sortie. He added that the enemy flights were concentrated over Mosul, Dahuk, and Irbil at speeds of 600-800 km per hour and at low and medium altitudes, engaging in harassment and surveillance.

11-12 Jul Air Activity Reported

JN1307211291 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Iraq has once again protested violations of its airspace by U.S. aircraft. In a memorandum to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent UN representative said that U.S. air activity in Iraq's airspace for 11-12 July totalled 19 air sorties made up of nine two-plane formations and one individual sortie. He added that U.S. air activity was concentrated over Dahuk, Irbil, north of Mosul, and [word indistinct] at speeds of [words indistinct] km per hour and at low and medium altitudes of 4-5 km.

45 Killed in Attack on Regime Post 2 Jul

NC1307060191 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Excerpt] As part of the victorious march and jihad undertaken by the heroic groups of the popular forces in southern Iraq and to assert the continued promotion of armed confrontation with the defeated regime's mercenaries, a jihad group carried out an attack against one of Saddam's Army command posts inflicting heavy casualties, according to sources of the popular forces in the South. These sources said that a revolutionary forces group, after a thorough reconnaisance, carried out a night attack on 2 July against an important military command post of Saddam's 408th Brigade. The sources said that the attack in the al-Ghuwayr area against the hostile target left 45 mercenaries of Saddam's Army, including three officers, dead. The attack also resulted in the destruction of 20 vehicles of various sizes, two artillery pieces, and two machine guns. The position was destroyed and fire set to what remained. [passage omitted]

Army Using Chemicals, Attempting To Dry Marshland

NC1407085191 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0440 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] In confirmation of earlier reports by our radio about the Saddamist Army's use of internationally banned weapons in attacks against the refugees in the southern marshland [words indistinct], REUTER reports that scores of our kinfolks were seriously injured when Saddamist aircraft sprayed them with sulfuric acid.

French soldiers told French television that they treated Shiite refugees who were transported from the south to the al-Salman area near the Iraqi-Saudi border. A physician working for the French contingent said that the refugees were exposed to sulfuric acid that was sprayed on them by Iraq's French-made Gazelle helicopters. He added the brutal attack was met by complete silence from the U.S. military intelligence crew monitoring the Saddamist attack through its facilities in the region.

In a related development, the regime has been attempting to (?poison) the marshland water. The regime has begun a campaign to dry the area using giant water pumps with the heinous intent of making the marshland suitable for moving its troops and vehicles and then waging a land attack against the refugees there.

Paper on Iran's Bushehr Reactor, 'Arms Fever'

JN1207135591 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Jul 91 p 2

["A Stand" column by Sabri Hammadi: "Iran and Arms Fever"]

[Text] What does the Iranian regime's stated insistence on building Bushehr nuclear reactor mean? Why does Rafsanjani express all this concern, interest, and determination to finish building this reactor despite reports on Germany's refusal to resume work on this project? Is Iran's request to France for enriched uranium a French story, as the TEHRAN TIMES claims, or is it an undisputed Iranian fact? Is it by chance that this Iranian determination to build Bushehr nuclear reactor coincided with leaked information on an immense tank deal between Iran and Poland, in which the latter would sell Iran 1,000 advanced T-72 tanks?

To answer these questions, we must bring to mind a principal, significant fact: Since the cease-fire in August 1988, the Tehran regime has been working to rebuild and modernize its military equipment that was destoyed by the war. It has concluded several major deals in this field. It goes without saying that the Iranian determination to complete the nuclear reactor, the attempt to obtain enriched uranium from France, and the major tank deal are all part of the feverish Iranian endeavors to rebuild and modernize its military machinery in quality and quantity. Moreover, they reflect the fact that the Tehran regime—which spent tens of billions of dollars on weapons, ammunition, and spare parts—has not learned the lessons or benefitted from its experiment with arms fever—not to mention the experiment of the Shah's regime, which squandered a large portion of the Iranian people's wealth and resources on an immense military arsenal, which proved to no avail.

This Iranian arms fever confirms that the Iranian regime has not relinquished its policies and expansionist ambitions; neither has it changed its old political trend. It still imagines that it can achieve its expansionist program and impose its will on the Arab nation and the other regional states by force. Of course, the Iranian people have paid and are still paying a dear price for their rulers' policies and trends.

As for the U.S. Administration and its European allies, they show a clear leniency toward the declared Iranian intention to complete the Bushehr reactor and conclude more arms deals. In fact, the United States and its European allies have been openly encouraging the Iranian regime's policies and trends and responding to its demands both openly and clandestinely. At the

same time, they are rancorously and resolutely continuing to disarm Iraq, and whipping up an oppressive, fabricated political propaganda campaign to divert attention from their hateful double standards regarding armament issues and their procrastination in lifting the oppressive economic embargo.

They are using the arm-twisting policy against the Arab nation. They are openly disrupting the balance of military powers in the region and encouraging the Tehran regime to press ahead with its armament and nuclear programs. Despite all this, they are shamelessly talking about the future of security and stability in this sensitive region of the world!

Responses to Syrian Move on Peace Process

Press Sees Possible U.S. Pressure

TA1507054791

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 15 July in a page A1 report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Arab affairs correspondent Ori Nir, and the news agencies reports: "Political sources in Jerusalem expressed their certainty that even though Israel would reject the conditions included in the Syrian response to President Bush's letter, the United States would accept them gladly, which would lead to renewed tension between the United States and Israel regarding the peace process. The sources asserted that Edward Djerejian, U.S. ambassador to Syria, was an active partner in formulating Syrian President al-Asad's response to the United States over the last six weeks, with the aim of permitting President Bush to continue promoting the peace process."

HA'ARETZ adds: "Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday expressed fears that in the wake of the positive U.S. response to the Syrian reply, President Bush would exert all the pressure he could on Israel to get it to renounce its objections to the participation of the United Nations and to a periodic reconvening of the peace conference. The U.S. President might seek the support of the European leaders and the Soviet Union, and might even coordinate measures with them to pressure Israel to stop creating obstacles.

"A senior Jerusalem source said that an Israeli refusal to accept an invitation to the peace conference may cause the United States to stop blocking France, which has already initiated a proposal in the Security Council calling for the convening of an international conference. In recent days, officials in Jerusalem have predicted that Syria would issue its response just prior to the meeting of the leaders of the seven industrialized countries in London in order to attract maximum international interest, on the assumption that its reply would sway public opinion in the United States and Europe and would concentrate pressure on Israel, which has already issued a negative response to the Bush letter."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 15 July, in a report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Shefi Gabay, and Ran Dagoni on pages A1 and A2, notes: "Following the Syrian reply, Israel will today ask the United States whether it gave Syria any secret commitments, which would contradict the agreements reached between Secretary of State James Baker and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, during the negotiations held between Edward Djerejian, the U.S. ambassador to Syria, and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

"Jerusalem fears that Washington promised Damascus that the UN representative participating in the peace conference would be given a preferred status, and that the United States and Syria had agreed on the interpretation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

"Israel has already declared that it rejects the Syrian interpretation of the Security Council resolutions: the return of all the territories captured during the Six-Day War, including the Golan Heights."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 15 July in a pool report on page 2 states: "Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday said that following the Syrian response, U.S. Secretary of State Baker would soon arrive in the region. Baker's visit would be designed to "tie up all the loose ends" prior to the impending convening of a regional peace conference. Baker may arrive within a few days, as he is scheduled to meet Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Greece in two days and may continue from there to Syria and Israel.

"Israeli political sources yesterday reacted with caution to the reports about the Syrian response. The Foreign Ministry was busy trying to gather additional details about the media reports, but sources there refrained from any official response until the full details of al-Asad's response to Bush were known. The sources said: "We have to learn all the details and compare the American proposals with the Syrian answers. Then we shall decide."

The report includes a similar reaction from Yosi Ahime'ir, the head of the prime minister's bureau: "We do not have the full details of al-Asad's reply. We must examine it. Israel, of course, welcomes any U.S. efforts to promote the political process, but it is clear that we want the negotiations with Syria to be without any preconditions and on the basis of the Camp David accords. Israel wants government-to-government negotiations. Israel has agreed to an opening meeting under international auspices, but opposes an international conference. It not only opposes any UN sponsorship of the conference, it is against any UN participation in the process."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 15 July carries a report by political correspondent Natan Gutman who says: "Official Jerusalem has not reacted to the Syrian president's reply to President Bush. The full details are not yet available and it is still too early to analyze the reply. At the same time, Secretary of State Baker's reaction last night clearly indicates the future direction. Jerusalem stressed that before al-Asad's reply is termed positive, it has to be thoroughly examined and a distinction must be drawn between the way the reply is formulated and the conditions it lists.

"All the signs indicate, however, that the United States views the Syrian reply—which U.S. representatives in Syria helped formulate—as a positive basis for advancement. According to Jerusalem, the political process will now regain momentum. It is possible that Secretary of State Baker will come to the region as early as next week. It is clear that the spotlight has shifted toward Israel. It is feared in Jerusalem that the Israeli Government will be portrayed as a nay-sayer and the one to blame for the impasse in the peace process.

"Jerusalem also believes that following the hastened move, Baker will wish to take the few points common to all the sides and construct a political initiative upon them. This initiative, it is expected here, will be expressed in an immediate summons for a multilateral meeting in Washington. The ball is currently in Israel's court, and the Shamir government will now have to decide whether to soften its positions a bit to allow the peace process to advance, or face possible U.S. pressure—though light—which will portray Israel as the refusing party."

Ministers React

TA1507114491

[Editorial Report] In its their midday newsreels, Israeli broadcast media on 15 July carry additional reactions to Syrian President al-Asad's reply to the Bush initiative.

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT carries a report by political correspondent Arye Golan saying that "Jerusalem has not yet received any official U.S. report concerning the Syrian reply."

In a recorded passage, Golan interviews Economics and Planning Minister David Magen who says: "Judging from press reports, I can understand why this reply was termed positive. Nevertheless, the reply contains more reservations than real substance. Al-Asad is today investing some $2.5 billion of the dividends he earned from the Gulf war in purchasing deadly weapons, while fulfilling his vision of greater Syria by annexing Lebanon. He is now trying to divert public attention in a different direction. In his long letter, he is trying to create the impression that his reply is positive while, at least the way I see it, his reply is a no to the American initiative, and no to the Israeli appeal to him to hold direct negotiations." Asked about expected concessions Israel could make, Magen said that "a democratically elected prime minister has less maneuverability than a tyrant such as the Syrian president." Magen also excludes the possibility of early elections, claiming that "Syria made no breakthrough."

On the same newscast Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav tells Golan: "Reading between the lines of the Syrian reply, we noticed that Syria was given certain clarifications from the United States. That is why we, in our contacts with the United States, must question those clarifications to the Syrians. We are not in an era of secret diplomacy, as far as the peace process in the Middle East is concerned. Israel is the only country physically in danger because of the discussions. That is why we must make certain that no commitments are made that could harm or endanger our existence and security; we must beware of that, no matter how unpleasant this could be." Concerning the participation of a passive UN representative and the reconvening of the conference every nine months, Qatzav says: "Those issues might lead Israel to isolation. Mistreatment of both those issues could certainly make it difficult for us." Qatzav also rejects the idea of holding early elections, saying that "we must not use the political pretext as an excuse to move up the elections."

Arye Golan also reports that "Minister Yuval Ne'eman said this morning that it is small wonder the Syrians are providing positive answers, when they share identical views with the Americans concerning our withdrawal to the Green Line. Israel must beware of the trap being set for it."

Deputy Minister Yig'al Bibi of the National Religious Party says that "the test of a shift in Syria's stand will be its willingness to enter into direct talks with Israel."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT quotes Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen of Tehiya as saying: "Syria should conduct negotiations with Israel and not with the United States. She said Israel had made its negotiating position clear to Syria and the other Arab states in Shamir's letter to Baker. She added Israel expects the United States not to adopt any position concerning the character and content of the negotiations."

The same broadcast notes: "Peace Now welcomes Syria's positive reply to the United States. It called on Prime Minister Shamir to respond immediately to the American initiatives and bring the issue to the people."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT quotes Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres as saying: "The Syrian reply to the American missive definitely makes negotiations difficult. At the same time, if the government does not give a positive reply, Israel will embark on a collision course with the United States." Peres adds: "Now that the Americans have termed al-Asad's reply positive, Israel must provide a positive reply. A negative reply is destined to shift U.S. public opinion against Israel; it would mean that Israel is the only nay-sayer in the region." The Labor Party chairman says he "has no doubt that the Syrian reply was coordinated with Egypt's President Mubarak." Peres says: "The Syrians have placed themselves at the center of the political map. A Syrian presence will also have an effect on the Palestinian positions. The Israeli Government, which has asked for the Syrians to talk, will have to decide whether it wants to appear as the only refusing party in the region." He adds that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has the solutions for the future in his hands."

The IDF broadcast notes that "the Palestinians in the territories are expressing cautious optimism, while adding that now it all depends on Israel." It carries a reaction by Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who said: "The Syrian reply is important, but there is a fear that Israel will continue delaying the process."

Arens on Iraq, Lebanon, IDF Issues

TA1307094191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Dalya Ya'iri and army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on 13 July on the "Weekly Newsreel" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Ya'iri] Good morning to Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Ya'ari] And good morning to our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

[Menashe] Good morning.

[Ya'ari] We are back to the Iraqi issue. Washington has been talking to London and Moscow. Officials have been perusing satellite pictures and discussing the locations where missiles could have been hidden and Iraq's potential to produce approximately 30 nuclear weapons. Washington has threatened to start bombing Iraq. Where do we figure in all this?

[Arens] We are closely scrutinizing developments in Iraq. The fact that Saddam Husayn is a liar is no news to us. Likewise, the fact that he has been making great efforts to achieve nuclear capability is no surprise. Some of the details are new to us. They must have reached U.S. intelligence through the defection of an Iraqi engineer. The full picture of the widespread activity conducted in Iraq in recent years is finally becoming clear, as is the fact that they have apparently made some accomplishments in the nuclear field.

[Ya'ari] Has there been any improvement in the bilateral exchange of intelligence information? During the Gulf war period that matter was not handled perfectly.

[Arens] That is not exactly right. During the period of the Gulf war—after the actual fighting began—there was a significant improvement in our relations and communications with U.S. intelligence. To the best of my knowledge, everything the Americans now find out is also put at our disposal.

[Menashe] It seems that the United States simply did not finish the job in Iraq during the war.

[Arens] I assume that the U.S. Administration, looking back with the benefit of hindsight, would agree with that. I imagine that if the United States had known at the end of February what it now knows about Iraq's nuclear capability, it would have made sure that it was eliminated.

[Ya'ari] We acted with restraint all the time and were even praised for our behavior. We did not want to harm the coalition. Now, the situation is different—do we have red lines regarding Iraq?

[Arens] I know that the term red lines is very popular, but I do not like it. I see no point in talking in geometrical terms. I do not even see anything complimentary about the term restraint. Everything must be dealt with in a cool-headed manner, and that is what we try to do. We make our decisions on the basis of our interests and in order to safeguard our interests, and that is exactly what we shall do in the present instance.

[Menashe] There were reports that President Bush has authorized in principle an attack on Iraqi nuclear installations. Do you think that Israel will again become involved in the fighting?

[Arens] I do not know what was decided upon in the United States. This is not a simple matter, because as far as we know at this moment the installations in which Iraq's nuclear capability or products are distributed are dispersed widely throughout the country. This is not, therefore, a question of the ability to hit one location in one attack, as was the case in our Air Force's raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981. The problem is not a simple one.

[Ya'ari] What about the Scud threat to Israel?

[Arens] Back when the war ended, we judged that Iraq still had the capability to launch missiles. It is true that a significant number of missiles have been destroyed under the supervision of UN inspectors; however, since we assume that Saddam Husayn has not told the truth, they probably still have missiles and launchers left.

[Menashe] Is the State of Israel, the home front, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] ready for the possibility that Israel may again be attacked with Scud missiles?

[Arens] We are ready. At this stage I would say that the probability of Saddam Husayn's launching missiles against Israel is very slight, because unlike then, when he tried to drag Israel into the war by firing missiles at us, it is difficult today to find any logic—even in Iraqi terms—in launching missiles against Israel, especially when it is clear to Saddam Husayn that a severe reaction from us will immediately follow.

[Menashe] At the time, you asserted that Israel would react to the Scud attacks at the time and opportunity it sees fit. Does Israel have any plans, or perhaps contingency plans?

[Arens] We have plans and we had prepared plans during the war. I said in the past that we were very close to implementing them when the war simply ended. If the war had continued another few days, I assume that Israel would have carried out its plans. Those plans are still valid today.

[Menashe] Regarding Lebanon, under which conditions, if at all, would Israel agree to withdraw from the security zone?

[Arens] We are not even talking or thinking about such a thing. We paid a heavy price to achieve the security that

the government owes the citizens of northern Israel. For the past nine years, ever since the Peace for Galilee operation, no Israeli citizen has been killed in northern Israel, and we have no intention of accepting any change in that state of affairs.

[Ya'ari] What about the PLO? A senior PLO official is meeting with the Egyptian leadership today, and there have been reports of a different kind of talk, of an end to the battle against Israel. Will we also alter our position regarding our readiness to talk to the PLO?

[Arens] I can only voice my own opinion, but I think that it is also the government's position. We are not about to change our position regarding the PLO in the slightest. The PLO is a terrorist organization that speaks for what it calls the Palestinian diaspora. It talks about returning refugees and the children of refugees who left the region in 1948. We have nothing to talk to them about. We definitely wish to talk to the Palestinian population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and we have reached various stages of dialogue with those people.

[Ya'iri] That brings us to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. This week there were another two instances involving the use of firearms. Has there been any change in the Israeli policy regarding this phenomenon?

[Arens] There has been no change in our policy. We have witnessed a certain rise in the number of attempts to use firearms during the intifadah's three and a half years. The policy of the various Palestinian elements that were involved in the intifadah was not to employ firearms. We have sensed some change in that policy. We may be seeing acts of desperation resulting from the situation analyses that we know the PLO's various factions have made. It is not a question of policy. We are determined to confront the phenomenon and to quell it as quickly as possible.

[Menashe] Mr. Arens, you recently endorsed the IDF's multiyear work plan. What are the main tenets of that plan?

[Arens] I endorsed the principles of the plan that was presented to me after several months of exhaustive efforts. At this stage I am not willing to announce details of the plan in the media. I can tell you that most of the details of the plan will remain secret, for obvious reasons. After all, we are talking about the strategies we intend to adopt to enable the IDF to offer an adequate response to any and all contingencies.

[Menashe] Regarding South Africa, the United States intends to lift the boycott. At what stage do you think that mutual relations on defense matters will be resumed between Israel and South Africa?

[Arens] That is hard to say, because the revocation of sanctions announced by President Bush does not apply to defense issues. It could also be that in light of the recent developments in South Africa, the government there could be less eager to establish defense relations with us in the future than it was in the past. [passage omitted]

Ministers Levi, Qatzav, on Iraqi Threat

TA1407150991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The Iraqi issue hardly featured in today's weekly cabinet session. The ministers discussed mortgage and hospital privatization proposals. The fear of a new conflagration on the Iraqi front was raised only outside the meeting hall. Minister Moshe Qatzav's remarks may imply that this time Israel will not be so passive:

[Begin Qatzav recording] We are taking every measure to make sure that these threats do not recur. Clearly, the scenario we witnessed in February will not repeat itself. [end recording]

Foreign Minister David Levi, on the other hand, wishes to allay panic. If anything happens, it will not be Israel that will decide on it; the United States has presented its terms to Saddam Husayn, and we can only wait and see, said Levi.

[Begin Levi recording] There is no room for panic. Israel has its position and means. In any case, we are following international activity in this sphere, and it is adequate. [end recording]

Other issues that were broached at the cabinet session: Foreign Minister David Levi reported on Israel's relations with the EEC against the backdrop of the visits of envoy Matutes and the Belgian foreign minister. The differences of opinion on the European representative in the territories currently focus on the question of whether the Europeans require Israeli approval for the transfer of funds to the territories, or whether they can make do with a consulting and coordinating role only.

A delegation headed by Yosef Hadas, acting Foreign Ministry director general, will depart for Brussels in two days to coordinate cooperation with the EC.

Levi Not Officially Invited To Visit Egypt Yet

TA1407125291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, said that no official invitation has yet been extended to Foreign Minister David Levi to visit Egypt. Yesterday it was reported in the Egyptian media that Minister Levi was invited to visit Cairo at the end of the month.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that, during a meeting with Arab affairs correspondents, Ambassador Basyuni said that a meeting between two foreign ministers is only natural, especially since the Egyptian foreign

minister has just recently assumed his post. However, there was no truth in the reports that Foreign Minister Levi had already been sent an official invitation.

Ambassador Basyuni added that, in his estimate, Syria is showing flexibility on the peace process; for example, Syria's readiness to agree to a peace conference with the participation of both superpowers. Basyuni rejected the claim that the Egyptian media were waging a smear campaign against the Israeli prime minister, and said that this was at the most one or two articles that do not reflect his government's policy.

Economic, Cultural Sanctions on RSA Revoked

TA1407111291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] At today's cabinet session the government decided to revoke all economic and cultural sanctions against South Africa. The decision to abrogate the sanctions was adopted unanimously. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the proposal was presented by Foreign Minister David Levi, with the prior approval of the prime minister. The cabinet did not discuss the military sanctions that are still in force against South Africa.

Levi Praises De Klerk

TA1407170991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Excerpts] At today's cabinet session it was David Levi, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who proposed lifting the sanctions imposed during 1987 on South Africa. South African President de Klerk has adopted far-reaching steps against apartheid, Levi explained.

[Begin Levi recording] The significance of this is that we are now going back to full trade relations and economic and cultural cooperation, as well as in other fields such as sports. This is only fitting for countries that maintain relations in these fields without any further obstacles. President de Klerk's activity has been very constructive and, in my opinion, he has proven his courage and wisdom to the entire world. Israel greatly appreciates the decisions implemented in this respect and those that will be implemented in the future. I think that he has put South Africa back on the track of international cooperation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

One of the ministers asked about Israel's defense relationship with South Africa. Minister Levi responded by saying that his proposal had no bearing on the defense aspect. [passage omitted]

'Substance' of Syrian Response to Bush Unknown

JN1507113791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Commenting on the recent Syrian response to the message from U.S. President George Bush on the peace efforts in the region, Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur has said in a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY: Thus far, the Jordanian Government has not been informed of the substance of the Syrian response. This response should have some definite positions and perhaps some proposals, which we have not been informed of as yet. When we receive more details, our position will be clearer.

On the possibility of a fifth tour of the states in the region by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Dr. al-Nusur said: If the Syrian response to the U.S. proposals is positive, Mr. Baker will naturally come to the region, and will find many questions awaiting him, in addition to unclear Israeli positions vis-a-vis the peace process and Israeli dawdling in this regard.

'Arafat Arrives Following Baghdad Visit

First Visit Since Feb

JN1407104591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Amman today on a visit, during which he will meet with King Husayn. The Palestinian leader arrived from Baghdad, where he met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. It was announced today that he also met with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan and leader of the Kurdistan Front, currently negotiating in Baghdad.

His visit to Baghdad is the first since the Gulf war, and the first to Jordan since 26 February.

Views Talks With Al-Masri

JN1407174591 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, at his office this afternoon. They discussed a number of issues of mutual concern, especially the conditions of the Palestinian people under occupation, Israel's oppressive practices, and the social and human suffering experienced by the Palestinian people. The discussions also dealt with the progress of efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis on the basis of international legitimacy and the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, and Israel's opposition to peace by placing obstacles in front of these efforts.

The talks fall within the constant coordination between Jordan and the PLO. The meeting was attended by 'Ali al-Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and minister of transport and communications; Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur; PLO Executive Committee members 'Abdallah Hurani, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, and Muhammad Milhim; and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Yasir 'Arafat gave a statement to our political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] The talks with his excellency the prime minister are part of the ongoing parley between ourselves and our brothers in Jordan. These are continuous consultations to coordinate Palestinian-Jordanian work at all levels, whether on politics, bilateral ties, or the developments in the region.

[Dhiyab] What about [words indistinct]?

['Arafat] I would like to tell you something. The most important topic I and my brother Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri discussed today was the conditions of our kinfolk in the occupied territories and the intifadah, which is growing despite all attempts made by the Israeli occupation forces and security forces, including the inhuman assassinations of the leaders of intifadah. These crimes were perpetrated with no one in the world opposing them. The Israelis themselves admit that they killed 83 intifadah leaders, but I want to tell them that neither 83, nor 830, nor 8,300 martyrs will adversely affect the course of the intifadah. [end recording]

Hopes No Attack on Iraq

JN1407185191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1812 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, at his office this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Asked about a possible U.S. military aggression against Iraq, the Palestinian president said: I hope Washington will not perpetrate such an act.

Meets, Talks With King Husayn

JN1407192091 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] His majesty the king received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat at al-Nadwah Palace this evening. Talks between the two focused on a number of Arab and international issues, the latest Arab developments, as well as Palestinian conditions inside and outside occupied Arab territories, and peace efforts in the region.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political adviser, and the foreign minister. On the Palestinian side, it was attended by PLO Executive Committee members and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

U.S. Urged To 'Back Their Words With Deeds'

JN0307060791 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Jul 91 p 4

[Unattributed editorial: "When Even Bread is Elusive"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush, in statements to the press Monday [1 July], gave a strong indication that he might issue invitations to a Middle East Peace conference and see who shows up if his secretary of state's stalled efforts are not saved and revived. "Well, I don't want to go into options but yes, I have seen suggestions of that nature (American call for peace conference) and at some point I think I owe the American people my view of the details I am not willing to discuss right now," he told White House correspondents at Kennebunkport. "(It) wouldn't bother me one bit to get up and say, 'here is what we have been trying to do.' So there is no time frame or anything of that nature, but I think there are a lot of people wondering what in the world is going on and I have invoked quiet diplomacy and the need for confidentially, but I can't do that forever. I just simply can't do it. I owe it to the American people and I think the people around the world to say, 'hey, here is what the United States thinks is a good formula.'"

The statement is indeed encouraging, given that it comes from the president of the United States and then because it is made at this particular time when little hope is left that the Shamir government will ever change its obstinate mind about giving peace a chance.

But we have been encouraged by U.S. statements before only to be disappointed by the inaction that invariably followed. Each time an American leader attempted to put moral pressure on Israel, the Israelis found a way not only to resist it but also to make more money and extract more material support from the U.S. in its aftermath.

With this in mind, and in the belief that President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker are serious about solving the Palestinian problem this time around, we extend an invitation to Messrs. Bush and Baker to back their words with deeds and do whatever is necessary to bring the Israelis to their senses if not outright save them from themselves.

This cannot be done by not linking aid and loan guarantees to progress on the peace front. Appeasement of Israeli hardliners did not work in the past and will not work in the future. The Reagan administration tried arms twisting by withholding delivery of weapons, or by some sharp words in the press and at the Security Council, but its attempts were either few and far between or they were theatrical and unconvincing in the first place. Bringing Israel to heel cannot work by excluding the U.N., especially the Soviet Union and the European Community, from peace efforts either. If President Bush is serious about issuing invitations to a peace conference, let him have the Soviet Union and the other permanent members of the Security Council co-sponsor the invitation. If Israel, or for that matter any other country, refuses to attend, then the U.N. would be the right place to discuss what could be done in response. The U.S. Congress cannot in that event easily accuse the administration of being unilateral and one-sided.

But above all, if Israel will not listen to the voice of reason, the U.S. will have to try what has not been tried before: Withhold financial and economic aid and threaten the imposition of U.N. sanctions. Shamir & Co. will resist and stiffen their already obdurate stand on the Palestinian problem and maybe even win more support from the Israeli electorate. But the Israelis cannot do it for long: They are going to need bread to take to their Masada fortress. Without the generosity of President Bush and the American people, even the sight of bread would elude them.

Al-Nusur: No Justification for Attack on Iraq

JN1507071591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] Amman (R)—Jordan said Sunday it saw no justification for renewed U.S. attacks on Iraq now that Baghdad had promised to cooperate with U.N. nuclear inspectors.

"According to my knowledge, Iraq has said it is ready to offer all the needed information on its nuclear effort in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions," Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur told reporters.

"Hence we do not see any justification for such harshness which has been unprecedented in history."

"We hope that all matters will have been solved peacefully before the deadline expires," Dr. al-Nusur said.

Dr. al-Nusur also said U.N. economic sanctions on Iraq should be lifted immediately. "The economic embargo that is harming the Iraqi people is unjustified and rejected by us," he said.

Kuwait Said Not To Expel Nationals En Masse

JN1507070991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] Amman (R)—Jordan said Sunday it had information that Kuwait would not expel Jordanians en masse because of their perceived pro-Iraqi sympathies. Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur said that according to what he called scarce and unofficial information, "there is no Kuwaiti intention to deport our citizens in masses." Jordan hopes "this is the reality because if it is so, it means that matters are starting to go in the right direction," he told reporters. "If it is otherwise, then this would be a clear violation of all customs and values upheld by humanity." Dr. al-Nusur did not say where his information came from. Kuwait said this month it was laying off thousands of non-Kuwaiti civil servants. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) said most would be Jordanians and Palestinians. Amman's economy has not yet absorbed 200,000 Jordanians who returned after Iraq's 2 August invasion of Kuwait.

Islamists To Withdraw Support in Upcoming Vote

JN1507073391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Jul 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by Nirmin Murad]

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood Movement announced Sunday that it was withholding support from Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri's cabinet in the upcoming parliamentary vote, but cabinet sources "who were not surprised by the decision" expressed confidence that Mr. al-Masri will win a majority in the Lower House.

The Muslim Brotherhood parliamentary bloc's decision, to withhold its confidence from Mr. al-Masri's government, was officially announced by its spokesman, Deputy Ahmad Qutaysh al-'Azayidah.

"After detailed study of the current situation and its requirements on the local, Arab and international levels, the makeup of the government and its government policy statement, it was unanimously decided to withhold confidence from this government," the one paragraph statement said.

It explained that the decision was taken at a meeting the Muslim Brotherhood deputies held to discuss the issue.

Government sources, in response to the movement's decision, said they were "not surprised" by the move.

"We represent liberal and progressive policies which are in direct contrast to those of the movement," a senior cabinet source said. "It is hardly surprising that, based on this, the movement has decided to oppose us," the source added.

'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti, minister of tourism, told the JORDAN TIMES that he had little doubt the government will win the necessary majority in the House and "go on to lead Jordan towards more democratic achievements and set a course of common sense and honesty."

"This government represents the future," Mr. al-Kabariti stressed. "We refuse to bow to any demand that would take us backwards. Abstruseness can only lead to social and political upheavals, which we do not need in this country."

Government sources calculate that Mr. al-Masri and his team will secure between 44-48 votes, including abstentions (which are counted as votes in its favour), when the vote of confidence takes place, most probably at the end of this week or early next week, depending on the length of the speeches deputies will deliver during the confidence session.

However, the final outcome still very much depends on which way some 10-15 independent deputies decide to vote. Consultations were continuing among those deputies, who while mostly establishmentarians, expressed their unwillingness to support the government unconditionally. Some of those parliamentarians are said to have no objection to the new cabinet's policies and objectives, except that they were not made members of it.

While it has been confirmed that a group of deputies, allegedly led by two Muslim Brotherhood deputies, had been making contact with other deputies in an effort to sway their votes against Mr. al-Masri's government, cabinet sources insist that most, if not all, independents will finally back the prime minister and his team.

The anti-government effort, which has been aimed at persuading 41 deputies to sign a letter of opposition to the government before the confidence session began, was instantly backed by several Brotherhood deputies, but not by all, as well as by several independent deputies.

"Their idea was that the prime minister, when confronted by these signatures, would be persuaded to resign his post prior to the Tuesday's confidence session," said one deputy, who himself was contacted by the lobby group.

But after the campaign failed to come up with the required number of votes, the group started to call certain ministers to persuade them to resign their posts.

Ministers contacted by the group generally expressed their disappointment over the methods employed by fellow parliamentarians, especially those who have no ideological differences with the government but are working for its failure on purely personal grounds," as one minister put it. [quotation mark as published]

"This is a government that has an ideological base and a mission that it wants to achieve. If those independent deputies feel that their personal quarrels with the government are more important than the fate of this country then they will have to live with the consequences," the senior cabinet source said. He did not want to be quoted by name.

Later on Sunday evening, a group of 12 mostly independent deputies announced formation of their own "constitution bloc." Members of the bloc, who hitherto included supporters and opponents of the government, named Irbid Deputy Dhuqan al-Hindawi as chairman and al-Karak deputy Yusuf al-Mubayyidin as rapporteur and official spokesman. Mr. al-Hindawi is a former chief of the Royal Court and deputy prime minister who played a major role in the election of 'Abd al-Latif 'Arabiyat (Muslim Brotherhood deputy from Salt) as speaker of the Lower House. By aligning himself and his several colleagues in the now defunct pan-Arab Nationalist Bloc in Parliament with the Muslim Brotherhood and their sympathisers in the House last October, he managed to defeat the incumbent speaker, Sulayman 'Arar, who had won the contest for the first speakership of the House over him in 1989. The formation of the new bloc, according to observers, may well be intended at playing the same role, as a power broker, in the confidence vote over Mr. al-Masri's government.

Mr. al-Mubayyidin served as justice minister in Prime Minister Mudar Badran's government until he was replaced by Brotherhood Deputy Majid al-Khalifah in the cabinet reshuffle of January 1991. He had belonged to the independent Islamist bloc which has had two different ministers in the Badran government and in the present one.

Other members of the Constitution Bloc are deputies 'Abd-al-Majid al-Shuraydah, Marwan al-Humud, 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, Fawzi Shakir Tu'aymah, Ibrahim al-Ghababishah, Husayn Mujalli, 'Isa al-Rimuni, Jamal al-Sarayirah, Sultan al-'Adwan, and 'Ata al-Shahwan. Most are independent deputies who had belonged to various blocs in the House.

Mr. al-Masri's own "National bloc," which is now headed by former speaker 'Arar, along with the independent Islamist bloc (minus new defectors) and the Liberal bloc (minus renegades) are expected to vote solidly for the al-Masri government. The Liberals have been divided over the choice of Deputy Jamal al-Khurayshah as their representative in the cabinet, whereas most of the independent Islamists are likely to support the prime minister.

Until late in the evening, the new Constitution Bloc was in session to decide on its policy vis-a-vis the confidence vote, and observers said it was highly unlikely that the new group would come out in opposition to the cabinet since it included deputies who would strongly vie for the government and who would not have joined the group if its objective was withholding support.

'Constitutional Bloc' Formed in Lower House

JN1507112491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—A new parliamentary bloc, the Constitutional Bloc, has been formed to reinforce the role of the House of Representatives in the coming period. The bloc's members are Dhuqan al-Hindawi, Yusuf al-Mubayyidin, 'Abd-al-Majid al-Shuraydah, Marwan al-Humud, 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, Dr. Fawzi Tu'aymah, Ibrahim al-Ghababishah, Husayn Mujalli, 'Isa al-Rimuni, Jamal al-Sarayirah, Sultan al-'Adwan, and 'Ata al-Shahwan.

The bloc elected Dhuqan al-Hindawi as its chairman and Yusuf al-Mubayyidin as its rapporteur and official spokesman.

Cabinet Adopts Draft Law on Political Parties

JN1407201691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] In its meeting this evening, the Council of Ministers approved the political parties draft law of 1991 and the draft law amending the state security court law. The two draft laws will be referred to parliament to go through the constitutional process before coming into force.

Islamist Leader Views Arab Silence Over Blockade

JN1307074091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Jul 91 p 14

[Text] Amman—Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, has condemned the United States for its threats against Iraq and its disdain for Arab and Islamic nations.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, he said the United States is challenging all Arab countries and practically telling them to be under Israel's control. He said the United States and its European allies are involved in Israel's plans to crush every Arab power, and consequently force the Arab countries to move under the banner of Zionism, which is collaborating with world crusaders.

Khalifah added: They are waiting for the Arab countries to yield, so that they can carry out their threat of dealing a fresh blow to Iraq after having crushed all the country's resources and factories and killed its children.

The Arab and Islamic countries' silence regarding the unjust blockade imposed by Bush and his supporters—who seek to bring back the time of colonialism and slavery of weak nations—is a denial of the human sentiments, gallantry, and manliness of all the people who are demanding public liberties, and is against all divine religions, because God hates every arrogant tyrant.

Interior Minister on Amnesty Human Rights Report

JN1407070391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jul 91 p 1

[Report by Nirmin Murad]

(Text) Amman—Jordan does not have any political detainees, except those convicted for security crimes that might have been related to political ideology, and the new government will reconsider the status of these cases with an eye to finding solutions which would not contradict with the country's security needs, Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul said Saturday.

In response to Amnesty International's annual report on Jordan and other Middle East countries, which was released last week, Mr. al- Subul said he could "confirm that we do not have a single political detainee in our prisons."

The minister, however, pointed out that there were less than 30 cases of convictions for crimes related to the country's security and that those convicted were currently serving their prison terms.

"We have the determination, as a new government, to look into the status of those serving their terms with a view to finding a solution without tampering with he foundations of the country's and citizens' security," Mr. al-Subul told the JORDAN TIMES.

In its annual report, Amnesty International maintained that "suspected government opponents continued to be imprisoned or detained in Bahrain, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and in Libya."

The report also said that "torture or ill-treatment was also reported in Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco."

"I can stress without any reservation that even those convicted of crimes that would normally be condemned by all people are treated well and humanely," Mr. al-Subul said.

"Such treatment no longer exists in our country at all," he added.

Mr. al-Subul who was governor of Amman before joining the new government, said that international organisations concerned with the affairs of prisoners have visited prisons in the country and have come out with "positive impressions of their situation."

"If ill-treatment means that they have lost their freedom by being imprisoned then that is what prison is all about," the minister said.

Amnesty International, in its report on Jordan, is believed to have been referring to a case in June where six political activists were detained for investigation on charges of distributing leaflets which contained personal slander against then-Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

At the time security sources told the JORDAN TIMES that there ws no evidence that the detained activists were the ones who issued or distributed the pamphlets except that copies of the leaflets were found in their houses.

The detainees allegedly belong to the Jordanian Communist Party—"the Revolutionary Path," which is a breakway faction of the Jordanian Communist Party.

The eight detainees (two more were rounded up after the first six) were released just before 'Id al-Adha for lack of sufficient evidence and their cases were not referred to the courts.

It was not clear whether the decision to release the detainees was taken by Mr. Badran's government before it left office or by Mr. Tahir al-Masri. The date of their release was June 19, the same day that Mr. al-Masri was sworn in, along with his cabinet, as prime minister.

At the time the arrests sparked a debate among political activists and some parliament members who argued that the detention of the group was in contravention with the spirit of the democratisation process.

Prince Hasan Receives Algerian Foreign Minister

JN1207091191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] At noon yesterday, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahim at the Royal Hashemite Court. Discussions dealt with the situation in the Middle East and various ways and means to overcome the crisis, and to support international efforts to establish peace in the region.

Bilateral relations were also discussed.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur.

1990 Oil, Gas Production Figures Released

JN1407112491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Jul 91 pp 1, 14

[Excerpts] A responsible source at the Oil Prospecting Department, which is affiliated with the Natural Resources Authority, has stated that the oil pumped from the Hamzah oil field last year amounted to 119,390 barrels. He added that al-Rishah field produced 5.5 billion cubic meters of gas. [passage omitted]

The source went on to say that the overall gas production at the al-Rishah field, since operations began on 15 March 1989 up to the end of the year, totaled 9.1 billion cubic meters produced from wells no. six and no. three. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Given 48 Hours To Hand Over Weapons

NC1207165491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] The Lebanese Army has tightened security measures around the Palestinian camps in the Tyre area to pressure the PLO to continue handing over its weapons. An AFP correspondent has reported that the Lebanese Army has closed the auxiliary entrances to the seven Tyre Palestinian camps, leaving one entrance open for each, and has set up checkpoints for searching vehicles and pedestrians.

A military source has told AFP that these measures were adopted because the Palestinians had not given the Army the bulk of their arsenal. He added: We are urging them to hand over all their weapons without delay, and they have 48 hours to do so.

Palestinian officials have repeated an earlier announcement which said that all their heavy weapons were transferred yesterday. One official told AFP: We have merely kept the personal weapons that the Lebanese state has not asked us to hand over. Furthermore, we do not possess a sizable military structure in Tyre's seven camps.

It should be noted that approximately 40,000 Palestinians live in the Tyre area, which is close to the border strip occupied by Israel.

Defense Minister Michel al-Murr said that according to the Army's inventories, the Palestinian leadership has only handed over little more than half of its heavy weaponry in Tyre. It was noted that the weapons given to the Army yesterday were smaller in quantity and considerably less sophisticated than the weapons collected in Sidon, which contains the largest Palestinian community in Lebanon and houses the PLO leadership in Lebanon.

A military source reported that the Amal Movement, which controls the Tyre area, has given the Army four armored vehicles, a rocket launcher, and 60 Grad rockets and continued to hand over its weapons today. The Army deployed in the Tyre area in large numbers yesterday.

Army Deployment Noted

NC1307054291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has accused the Army of taking up combat positions around al-Rashidiyah Camp and of committing provocations aimed at fueling the fighting. The PFLP said in a statement that the Lebanese Army's pattern of deployment contradicts the positive spirit demonstrated by the Palestinian factions. The front warned against the Army's measures in al-Rashidiyah Camp. It called for resolving all disputed matters through a political dialogue between the two sides.

PLO Wants End to Army 'Siege'

NC1307151291 Paris AFP in English 1431 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, July 13 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) called on Lebanese troops Saturday to lift their "siege" on Palestinian camps after repeating claims that it had turned in all its heavy weapons. But a government source said "the Palestinians had handed over only a third of the arms that they had in the al-Rashidiyah camp (near Tyre) and two-thirds of those in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp (near Sidon)." A large deployment of Lebanese troops was maintained Saturday around refugee camps near Tyre.

The encirclement of the camps is "a preventive measure which will be lifted only when the Palestinians have handed over all their weapons," the source said. "We ask the government to lift these restrictions which arouse the fear of the camp residents," the PLO said in a statement, adding that all arms had been removed from the camps. It said it "was surprised by the measures taken around the camps, which are encircled and under siege."

The PLO also accused the government of delaying plans to guarantee civil and social rights for the Palestinians and asked for the release of all imprisoned Palestinians. After four days of fighting that left more than 50 Palestinian guerrillas dead early this month, the PLO agreed to hand over its heavy and medium weapons to the army. In return, the central government was to guarantee rights for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

'Abdallah al-Amin, member of the Lebanese Government's ministerial committee set up to meet with Palestinians, said efforts to guarantee civil rights for the Palestinians would result in progress if the PLO proceeded with the complete handover of arms. "Civil rights will be granted to them if they respect Lebanese laws and will include residence, travel and work permits," Mr. al-Amin said in an interview Friday with the Christian Kata'ib [Phalangist] party's Voice of Lebanon radio.

Army 'Security Measures' Continue

NC1307170891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Lebanese Army units are continuing to take security measures in Tyre and surrounding villages. The units have closed auxiliary entrances to the al-Buss, al-Rashidiyah, and al-Burj al- Shamali camps, keeping only one entrance to each camp open. The Army suspects that the Palestinians still have more heavy- and medium-caliber weapons in these camps.

AFP cited a government source as saying that the Palestinians have only turned over one-third of their weapons in the al-Rashidiyah camp and two-thirds of their weapons in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. The source said that the camps are being surrounded as a precautionary measure. The Army will leave only when the Palestinians

turn over all their weapons. The source said that the government has demanded that the remaining weapons be turned over by Sunday.

AFP also cited the PLO leadership in Lebanon as saying that the PLO has, in fact, handed over all its heavy- and medium-caliber weapons to the Lebanese Army according to the agreement it reached with the government. The source said the PLO is surprised by the Army's actions. A PLO statement called on the government to end the standoff.

Further on Deadlock on Weapons

NC1307194091 Paris AFP in English 1923 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Tyre, Lebanon, July 13 (AFP)—The Lebanese Army, reinforcing its positions around Palestinian camps here, on Saturday gave Palestinian guerrillas a 24-hour ultimatum to turn in all their heavy weapons, military sources said. The Army sent reinforcements to the three refugee camps in the southern Tyre area, putting barbed wire around one of them, and for the first time sent patrols into Palestinian-populated areas, correspondents observed.

A military source said the Palestinian fighters from the al- Rashidiyah, al-Buss, and Burj al-Shamali camps and the al-Qasimiyah community had been asked to remove the remainder of their heavy and medium-sized weapons before Sunday night.

"We are certain that they have more of them and if they fail to obey, the Army will further tighten its grip around the camps," the source said, adding that there had still been no decision to enter them. Many of the thousands of Palestinians in the camps were visibly tense Saturday.

Army patrols entered Ma'shuq, Abu al-Aswad and Shabriha, areas where Palestinians live alongside Lebanese. A military source said that "the Army considers that these communities are not camps because they were built after 1962 on others' property." [passage omitted]

Palestinians Retain Weapons

NC1407060291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] A government source has revealed that the competent authorities have detailed lists of the quantities and types of weapons held by the Palestinian groups. The source said that compared with what has been handed over, these groups are retaining 40 to 50 percent of their heavy- and medium-caliber weapons, in addition to arsenals of all types of ammunition, especially rockets and artillery.

These sources added that during Army operations in villages east of Sidon and the raids on some areas of Sidon and the houses of some Palestinian leaders, a truck load of documents and files were found, taken to a secure place, and placed under heavy guard. A specialist committee on Palestinian affairs has been asked to study these documents and files.

Army Says No Deadline for Handover

NC1407122091 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 14 Jul 91

[By Acil Tabbara]

[Excerpt] Tyre, Lebanon, July 14 (AFP)—The Lebanese army increased its pressure on Palestinian camps in the Tyre region on Sunday but said it had not set a deadline for the PLO to hand over all its weapons.

On Saturday, a military source in Sidon—the Palestine Liberation Organization's main stronghold in Lebanon—said the Palestinian leadership would take out all heavy and medium-calibre weapons before Sunday night, but the report was denied by the army command on Sunday.

Amid the confusion, Lebanese soldiers kept their sand barricades which they had erected around the area's camps, less than 10 kilometers (six miles) from Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in southern Lebanon. But they removed the barbed wire set up the previous night. The army had barred access to the camps, except for each facility's main entrance, where it set up a control checkpoint.

On Sunday, long lines of cars formed at the entrance to the camps, with soldiers subjecting the vehicles to intensive searches. The measures have been taken to force the Palestinians to continue handing over their heavy and medium-calibre weapons, a military source had said. The PLO said it had already taken out its arsenals from the camps on Wednesday.

Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin, a member of the Lebanese government's ministerial committee set up to meet with Palestinians, said the disarming of the camps was "almost complete" and that "the Palestinians have handed over 95 per cent of their arms in southern Lebanon." [passage omitted]

Palestinians To Facilitate Army

NC1507070691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] In light of the deadline set by the Army, the issue of the Palestinian weapons could be resolved today. A Palestinian source did not rule out today that a quantity of medium-caliber weapons will be handed over to the Army in a few hours.

PLO sources in Tyre have affirmed that the central Palestinian leadership has instructed the Palestinian leaders in the Tyre camps to facilitate the Army's deployment, to hand their weapons over to the Army, and even

to allow the Army to search the camps and conduct patrols in view of the fact that it is a friendly, patriotic Arab Army.

Army To Deploy Near Occupied Strip Before 29 Jul

NC1407063091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] A diplomatic source has been cited saying that the Army will complete its deployment in the south up to the borders of the occupied border strip so the Lebanese state can impel the Security Council to pressure Israel to implement Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon. The source said the state is seeking to complete the Army deployment up to the border before renewal of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon mandate on 29 July. This is so the renewal would not be handled routinely and to make the Security Council adopt a new stand or resolution calling on Israel to withdaw from the south.

Palestinian Fighters To Remain in Positions

NC1207130991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Abu-Fadi Raji, member of the Executive Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has reiterated the Palestinian stand on establishing the state authority over all Lebanese territories. In an interview with our radio, he said: We have underlined and continue to underline the slogan of wresting the state's sovereignty from the hands of Israeli occupation through a national Palestinian stand of solidarity. It is on this basis that we have extended all facilities so that the Army can impose the state's authority over all its territories. We did this in Beirut, the mountain, Iqlim al-Tuffah, east of Sidon, and the south.

Noting that everything was coordinated with the state and the leading figures in Sidon, he revealed that during the contacts to carry out the deployment and prevent any friction or collision with the Army, units from the Lebanese Army encircled a number of Palestinian positions on the Kafr Falus front when the Palestinians were gradually withdrawing toward the camps in the presence of an official committee led by Lebanese Army Major Hasan Jabir. He added: The first day passed peacefully, but on 2 July a personal incident took place which, regretfully, turned into clashes when we asserted that we did not warn to confront the Army and were eager to tackle all problems through dialogue. While our fighters were throwing down their weapons, the Army was arresting them as prisoners. A number of our fighters were martyred and others were wounded while we were keen on not entering into a battle with the Army for any reason. At any rate, what took place was painful and we are all working to tackle its aftermath.

Regarding the political dialogue the PLO is calling for, Abu-Fadi Raji said: The file of political rights is known to the state. We do not want to raise issues that the state believes the time is not right at this stage. In light of the national and pan-Arab relations between the PLO and the state, we are demanding a political presence or representation, as is the case in Europe and elsewhere where the PLO has embassies and political missions. Why should we not have official representation since the state recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and is, like Lebanon, a member of the Arab League?

Abu-Fadi Raji added: Another political right is that of freedom of political and information activities in Beirut. This is a simple issue that could not embarrass the state. We consider it to be a pan-Arab contribution to the national Palestinian struggle. There is also the issue of the political status of the camps whose presence is considered temporary. As to the issue of the struggle, it is one that should be discussed with the state on the basis of relations of struggle. He said: We call for drawing up a plan for defending the south from the Israeli enemy's ambitions and defending the camps and consequently Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. This requires the mobilization of all resources to confront all the dangers. We are seeking to establish fraternal relations with the Lebanese people and with the brothers in the Army and the state.

On the issue of deporting Palestinians, Abu-Fadi Raji said: The U.S. Administration is constantly seeking to end the armed Palestinian presence. It describes the legitimate Palestinian struggle as terrorism, always supports the Zionist enemy, and strenuously works to spare this enemy any dangers. In this respect, Washington is trying to exert great pressures to get the Palestinian fighters out. An Israeli military spokesman stressed two days ago the need to get the Palestinian fighters out. But the Palestinian stand is clear: Refusal to have any fighter leave the camps, and consequently, to remain in their positions for fear of a repetition of the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

Commenting on official statements on the need to ensure Israel's northern borders, Abu-Fadi Raji said: I think that those who believe in the possibility of satisfying the Zionist entity with some security arrangements are mistaken. Israel is not content with the theory of secure borders but wants a comprehensive agreement and considers Resolution 425 a part of the file of the region. Israel wants to forge the Lebanese link so that this country becomes a political and eonomic satellite and lackey. This is the U.S.- Israeli concept. Sovereignty is wrested and not given. Let us cooperate so that the south will turn to full resistance. Let us raise the slogan of wresting Lebanese sovereignty from the Israeli occupation.

Al-Amin Denies Palestinians To Be Deported

NC1407084491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin has said that the process of collecting Palestinian heavy- and medium-caliber weapons is nearing completion and that more

than 95 percent of these weapons are now in Lebanese Army depots under Army control and supervision. In an interview with the Voice of People Radio, he added that the Ministerial Liaison Committee will turn to the discussion of civic and social issues according to the cabinet's decision. He dismissed any itention or decision to deport the Palestinian fighters. On the Jazzin question, he said the government is about to launch a major political and diplomatic campaign to gain Israel's withdrawal from this area.

Foreign Minister on Implementing Resolution 425

NC1307195491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has emphasized that the Lebanese Army's deployment in Sidon facilitates the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, invalidates Israel's excuses for a continued presence in the south, and proves to the world that time has come for Israel to withdraw from south Lebanon.

In an interview with the Saudi paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT today, Minister Buwayz reasserted Lebanon's commitment to the Palestinian issue. He emphasized that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and expressed Lebanon's readiness to work with any PLO concept on resolving the Palestinian issue. He said that Lebanon is interested in seeing the successful resolution of the Palestinian issue.

Israeli 'Pretexts' for Attacks Diminished

NC1307105391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has said that after the Army's deployment in the south, all of Israel's pretexts for its recurrent attacks on Lebanon have diminished. He added: We now enjoy a strong position in our dealings with the international circles, whose task now is to work toward implementing Resolution 425 and to move effectively against any Israeli attack on Lebanon.

Defense Minister in Damascus; Karami on Jazzin

NC1407074691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr joined Ministers Muhsin Dallul and 'Abdallah al-Amin in Damascus today for talks with Syrian officials on developments in the south. Minister Dallul spent yesterday shuttling between Damascus and Zahlah's government house for contacts on the Army deployment in the south.

Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has described the Army's successful deployment in Sidon and Tyre as an important step. He asserted that the Army's entry in Jazzin will take place soon in light of efforts by the local and international parties concerned for Israel's withdrawal from the south and the implementation of Resolution 425.

'Powerful Blast' at Ancient Ba'labakk Temple

NC1407112791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1055 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] The ancient temple of Ba'labakk was rocked by an explosion this morning. An explosive charge went off near Jupiter's Pond, and the powerful blast was audible miles away from Ba'labakk. Clouds of heavy smoke formed over the area. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent, reporting from Ba'labakk, said that there was panic in the area, particularly among visitors to the ancient site. Initial reports indicated no loss of life.

UN's Goulding Arrives, Meets Premier Karami

NC1507084291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has received Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for special political affairs, who arrived in Beirut at 1000 today for a visit which will last several days. He will meet with a number of Lebanese officials to discuss renewing the mandate of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon.

Al-Shar' Delivers Al-Asad Reply to Bush Letter

U.S. Envoy Receives Letter

JN1407182391 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1747 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Gentlemen, we have just received the following: Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received at his office today U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian and conveyed to him a letter from President Hafiz al-Asad to U.S. President George Bush.

The president's letter contains Syria's reply to President Bush's proposal on holding a peace conference to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on the UN resolutions.

In his letter, President Hafiz al-Asad commends the efforts President Bush and Secretary Baker exerted to overcome the difficulties facing the convening of the conference. The president considers President Bush's proposals and the subsequent clarifications positive and balanced, and constitute an acceptable basis for achieving a comprehensive solution and a peace process in the region, especially since these proposals are based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which apply to all fronts and secure legitimate Palestinian political rights. The president also expresses satisfaction because President Bush based his proposals on the principles of international legitimacy, gave special attention to the UN role in the peace conference, and stressed European participation. In particular, he highly assesses President Bush's pledge that the United States and the USSR will be a catalyst for peace and that they will have a special responsibility to make the conference succeed in its objectives as defined by the relevant UN resolutions.

Baker's Reaction Noted

JN1507054091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker described the Syrian response to U.S. President George Bush's proposals for convening a peace conference as positive. REUTER noted that following his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksander Bessmertnykh, Mr. Baker said: The response we received in this letter to President Bush pushes the efforts forward more than any previous efforts I know. The press agency said Mr. Baker told journalists that having received the Syrian response, he will probably pay a special visit to the Middle East. The agency added that U.S. officials believe the positive Syrian response will increase pressure on Israel to accept President Bush's proposals.

Press on Al-Asad's Satisfaction With Bush Plan

JN1507100991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Press review]

[Text] In an editorial with the headline "The Peace Conference and the International Responsibility," AL-BA'TH says: In his reply letter to the U.S. President on a peace conference on the Arab- Israeli dispute, leader al-Asad stressed several facts which cannot be ignored by any party interested in the achievement of peace and justice. Among other things, al-Asad's reply stressed that activating the peace process in the region is based on the principles of international legitimacy, UN Resolutions 242 and 338 which apply to all sides, and the attainment of the legitimate Palestinian political rights. Peace cannot be achieved and cannot be considered peace if it is marred by any disparity between the parties to it. More clearly, it can be said that peace becomes unattainable if a certain party acquires gains which harm or inflict losses on the other party. Therefore, leader al-Asad expressed satisfaction because the U.S. President based his proposals for a peace conference on the principles of international legitimacy and paid special attention to the UN role and European participation.

The paper adds: The aspired-for peace conference requires concerted international efforts to achieve this objective, which corresponds to the spirit of the new age and its civilized aspirations. Therefore, no party—Israel in particular—must in any way be allowed to obstruct these efforts or constitute the major obstacle to them. All peoples of the world are looking forward to a world devoid of hotbeds of tension, especially in our region, which is considered the most dangerous as a result of the aggressive Israeli policy which pays no attention to the world public opinion. All that concerns Israel is to seize more Arab territory.

Concluding its editorial: AL-BA'TH says: It remains to be said that it is a major, urgent, and required international responsibility to advance the peace process, convene a successful peace conference, and make sure it attains its objectives.

In an editorial under the headline "What Lies Behind Breaking Down the Solution," TISHRIN says: The entire world is watching with great hope and interest the international political efforts to establish a just, comprehensive peace in the region. At the same time, there exists a consensus that for such a peace to last, it must be based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the on need to put an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab territory. Peace must also be comprehensive and enjoy an extensive and effective international presence through the United Nations, the EC, the United States, and the Soviet Union.

Reviewing the developments of the peace efforts which require preventing Israel from erecting more obstacles, TISHRIN says it has become evident that a solution in the region cannot be achieved by breaking down the Arab-Israeli dispute. The paper says: Breaking down the dispute gives Israel a certificate of good conduct and a prolonged residence permit to continue its occupation of Arab territory and to seize more Arab land at the expense of Arab rights and dignity. The Arabs reject this, part

and parcel. They will resist it without letup. While asserting eagerness for a just, durable, and comprehensive peace, the Arabs hold Israel fully responsible for all the consequences of its rejection of peace efforts and its noncompliance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. This is especially true in light of the fact that everyone realizes that it is impossible to achieve peace in the region without Syria, in view of its effective weight and political credibility, which has been attested to by the developments of events and relations between nations. It is impossible to falsify facts or to bypass the core, causes, and comprehensive dimensions of this dispute.

Commentary Notes Global 'Relief' to Response

JN1507142791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's response to President George Bush's Middle East peace initiative, and the U.S. proposals to advance the peace process and promote a fair and universal solution to the Arab-Zionist dispute predicated on UN resolutions and international legitimacy, has been greeted by the world with unmistakable relief. The world has been highly appreciative, as well of the genuine desire evident in President al-Asad's reply to President Bush's letter to facilitate international efforts to build the new world order on foundations of security and peace, and to remove the obstacles holding up the peace process which has looked all the more promising since the Gulf war, and which has engaged the major world powers over the past few months.

The United States, led by President Bush and Secretary Baker, has spearheaded a visibly serious effort to unlock the doors to real action for bringing the region closer to peace and pulling it back from the brink of war, the countries of the region having paid an exorbitant price in a destructive war, precipitated by the miscalculations and stubbornness of the Baghdad regime. Since his famous congressional address in early March, when President Bush floated his ideas for a Middle East peace process based on UN resolutions, especially Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the territory-for-peace formula, Washington has been exerting itself to create an atmosphere amenable for convening a peace conference attended by the major world powers—a parley at which the United Nations will have a part, and which will address all aspects of the regional crisis, overcome the obstacles to a fair and comprehensive peace, and rid the region of the risk of wars that have drained much of its energies and resources over the past 40-odd years. In this context, President Bush's letter has added a fresh dimension to the efforts of U.S. diplomacy: the U.S. President's proposals—based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 that apply to all fronts and assure legitimate Palestinian political rights—and his subsequent explanations are positive and balanced, and form an acceptable launchpad for a comprehensive solution and a peace process. Meanwhile, President Bush's proposals—assigning, as they do, the United Nations a special role at the peace conference—are based on international legitimacy. They further provide for European participation, and pledge that the United States and the Soviet Union will be a driving force behind the peace process, both bearing a special responsibility to help the conference reach its goals as enshrined in the pertinent UN resolutions. In keeping with a consistent orientation toward and striving for peace without making any concessions over rights, territory, or the future, Syria had to give an affirmative answer to the U.S. proposals.

Daily Says Nation 'Welcomes' Bush Initiative

JN1207144991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 12 Jul 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The International Trial," AL-THAWRAH comments on the state of the peace process in the region and Syria's position on President George Bush's initiative. AL-THAWRAH writes: Syria welcomes the U.S. initative, not only because it advances the U.S. position on the Arab-Israeli dispute, but also because Syria is interested in a fair, comprehensive, and lasting peace, and pursues this goal in line with UN resolutions and a single standard in their application. The paper reviews the obstacles placed by Israel in the path of peace, and its obstructionist approach to UN resolutions. Syria, AL-THAWRAH asserts, has made it clear that it will never obstruct peace efforts, and it has shown every kind of cooperation with these efforts. In contrast, Israel has gone out of its way to prove that it is has no interest whatsoever in peace. The paper concludes by urging the international community to put pressure on Israel since its role having been exposed for what it is. AL-THAWRAH says: For the international community to pay lip service will not do; it will have to work toward putting teeth in its convictions and promoting a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the region. Only then will the international community's credibility pass the test of invoking a single standrad.

'Window of Opportunity' for Peace Said Opened

JN1307063691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 13 Jul 91

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN today deals with the regional peace process and the Israeli intransigence that obstructs this process, urging the world community to move from condemning the Israeli position to applying pressure on the Shamir government.

TISHRIN adds: This is only achievable if an objective, balanced policy based on honoring the resolutions of international legitimacy is pursued. The reference here is

to a policy that is credible enough to make Israel terminate its occupation of Arab lands and accept the principles of truth, justice, and peace.

The newspaper TISHRIN goes on to say: The United States opened a new window of opportunity in its moves and efforts through the statements made by U.S. President George Bush. However, keeping this window of opportunity open is still contingent upon the ability to overcome Israeli intransigence, and consequently on the capacity of the world community to surmount the obstacles the Shamir government has persistently created to torpedo the peace process.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: The United States is well aware, more than any other party, of the threats posed by the Israeli position if Israeli obduracy and its aggressive anti-Arab course is maintained. At the same time, the United States is aware of the strong interest Syria has in achieving peace, regaining the usurped Arab rights, and ending the Israeli occupation. This interest was underscored by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, when he said that Syria has never been and will never be an obstacle to the international efforts to establish a just peace.

PRC's Li Peng Holds Talks, Concludes Visit

Meets With Al-Asad

JN1207132891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] At 1100 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received PRC State Council Premier Li Peng at Qasr al-Sha'b. Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, attended. A round of talks was then held at Qasr al-Sha'b between the Syrian Arab side, headed by President Hafiz al-Asad, and the PRC side, headed by Li Peng. The talks were attended on the PRC side by members of the official delegation accompanying Li Peng, and on the Syria side by Council of Ministers Chairman Mahmud al- Zu'bi; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Foreign Affairs Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Muhammad al-'Imadi; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur; Yusuf Shakkur, assistant to the foreign minister; and Syrian Ambassador in Beijing Dr. Lutfallah Haydar.

Li Peng, his wife, and the delegation, accompanied by Foreign Affairs Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, visited the martyrs graveyard in Najha this morning. They were received at the entrance by the commander of the southern region and other senior Army and Armed Forces officers. Li Peng then placed a bouquet of roses on the martyrs' monument, while the Army band played taps. Li Peng also wrote the following in the visitors book: Eternity to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the homeland.

Li Peng, his wife, and their companions then departed the martyrs' graveyard after being accorded a warm farewell ceremony.

Invites Al-Asad To Visit PRC

JN1207155791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Excerpts] At 1100 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received PRC State Council Premier Li Peng at Qasr al-Sha'b. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended the meeting. A round of talks was then held at Qasr al-Sha'b between the Syrian Arab side, headed by President Hafiz al-Asad, and the PRC side, headed by Li Peng. [passage omitted]

A meeting between the president and PRC State Council Premier Li Peng followed the expanded session. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the PRC foreign minister.

Li Peng conveyed to President Hafiz al-Asad the greetings of the PRC president and those of the Chinese Communist Party secretary general. He also extended an invitation to visit the PRC, which the president gratefully accepted. The president asked him to convey his greetings and best wishes to the leadership of the country and the party, and to the friendly people of the PRC. The president also promised to fulfill the invitation to visit the PRC.

Talks during both sessions dealt with the international situation in general, the situation in the Middle East, and bilateral relations and ways to entrench them.

Leaders View International Ties

JN1307182891 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] At 1200 today, President Hafiz al-Asad and PRC State Council Premier Li Peng resumed their talks in a meeting at the Presidential Palace.

During the meeting, they comprehensively evaluated international developments and held in-depth discussions on the situation in the Middle East, as well as efforts being exerted to establish a just and comprehensive peace within the framework of international legitimacy and United Nations resolutions. They also evaluated international and regional situations and circumstances, and expressed a mutual desire to cooperate for the sake of international legitimacy and a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Li Talks With Prime Minister

JN1207175091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1720 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Damascus, 12 Jul (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received PRC State Council Premier Li Peng at 1900 today.

Present at the meeting were Dr. Yasin Salim, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Foreign Affairs Minister Faruq al-Shar'; and Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi.

On the PRC side, the meeting was attended by Qian Qichen, state councillor and foreign minister; Li Lanqing, minister of foreign economic relations and trade; and a number of delegation members.

They reviewed bilateral relations during the meeting.

Later, the Syrian side, headed by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and the PRC side, headed by State Council Premier Li Peng, held a session of talks. [passage omitted]

Desire To Expand Ties Discussed

JN1307060191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Damascus—At 1900 yesterday, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received PRC State Council Premier Li Peng. [passage omitted]

Later, the Syrian Arab and PRC sides held a round of talks attended by members of the two delegations.

During this round of talks, al-Zu'bi welcomed Li Peng and members of the PRC delegation. He noted the importance of this visit in enhancing and consolidating bilateral ties and discussed the strides in development Syria has made and the economic policies it is seeking to implement. He also noted the important facts regarding the popular democratic system being pursued in Syria.

Al-Zu'bi also affirmed Syria's desire to expand the horizons of Syrian-PRC cooperation in all areas.

As for Li Peng, he thanked al-Zu'bi and the Syrian Government for the hospitality accorded him and the PRC delegation in Syria. Furthermore, he declared the desire of the PRC to bolster Syrian-PRC ties and consolidate them in all fields. He also stressed the importance of continuous meetings between the leaders of the two friendly countries.

Li Peng indicated that Syria is a country of great importance and caliber in the Middle East region; one that is playing an important role. He also explained some aspects of what the PRC is doing in the political, economic, and social fields. He noted that there is great potential for the exchange of expertise and cooperation between the two countries. He extended an invitation, in his name and on behalf of the PRC Government, to the prime minister to visit the PRC. Al-Zu'bi accepted the invitation gratefully and promised to visit.

During this round of talks, the two sides reviewed means of expanding cooperation between the two friendly countries in all spheres in the interest of both countries.

At 1300 yesterday, Dr. Sulayman Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, met with Li Lanqing, PRC minister of foreign economic relations and trade. They discussed ways to enhance economic, industrial, and trade ties between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by members of the Syrian and PRC delegations.

Li Peng, Foreign Minister Meet

JN1307145491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] This afternoon a round of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry between delegations headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Mr. Qian Qichen, Chinese state councillor and minister of foreign affairs.

The two sides exchanged views on international efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on international legitimacy and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. They also discussed the obstacles Israel is placing in front of a peace conference.

Talks also focused on the proposed plans for disarmament in the region. Views were identical on continuing contacts and future exchanges, international issues, and other issues of mutual interest.

Salman Briefs Press on Visit

JN1307161591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1522 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman has welcomed the visit of PRC State Council Premier Li Peng. At a news conference this afternoon, attended by PRC, Arab, and international correspondents, Salman said that relations between Syria and the PRC are based on mutual respect and shared interests. He added that President Hafiz al-Asad's meeting with Premier Li Peng will promote these relations, further peace efforts in the world, and broaden bilateral ties in the economic, political, cultural, and media spheres.

The minister explained that cooperation between Syria and the PRC will help international peace. He underscored the PRC stance that emphasizes enforcing international legitimacy and UN resolutions, particularly 242 and 338.

The minister pointed out that Syria is working to make international peace efforts succeed, while Israel rejects international legitimacy and peace. Israel also refuses to recognize the Security Council resolutions and the international agreement on halting the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

The minister noted that Israel is obstructing international efforts and does not want peace. However, in coordination with the world Zionist lobby, which controls many world media organs, Israel is distorting facts, propagating the ideas of the Israeli leaders, and trying to hide their real ambitions and derail international peace efforts.

The minister added that the international community is asked to pressure Israel into implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy. It is also asked to adopt a single standard when dealing with issues of world peace.

Answering a question on Li Peng's visit to Syria, the minister said: We regard Li Peng as a prominent and influential political figure. We greatly appreciate his visit to Syria and consider it a confirmation of the PRC's support for just causes and for the Arab people in their conflict with Israel, which has suffered due to Zionist racism. We also consider the visit to be Li Peng's affirmation of his desire to find a just and comprehensive solution to the conflict in the region.

The minister added that the meeting between leader President Hafiz al-Asad and Prime Minister Li Peng will develop bilateral relations and will bolster efforts for world peace. It will also push bilateral relations forward, including the fields of culture, politics, media, and economics.

Responding to another question, the minister said: The PRC deals equally with countries in the region that own weapons. Neutral stands are those that deal with the region on an equal footing to rid it of weapons of mass destruction by supporting peace efforts in the region, particularly since Israel's aggression relies on the advanced weapons it possesses. Israel rejects the principle of ridding the region of weapons of mass destruction, while Syria supports this principle.

In 1987, President Hafiz al-Asad called for making the Mediterranean a sea of peace. We expect the international community to assume an effective role in ridding the region of weapons of mass destruction If these weapons stay in Israel's possession, they pose a danger to international peace.

On the effects of the Gulf war on the Arab-Israeli conflict and Syria's stand after the war, the information minister said: Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait was followed by an Arab summit in Cairo where it was emphasized that this was an aggressive act that runs counter to the principles of the Arab League Charter and international legitimacy. The summit asked the Iraqi president to withdraw immediately.

Syria, like the rest of the Arab countries, adhered to international legitimacy, rather than allowing one country to commit aggression against another. Undoubtedly, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait weakened the Arab stand and enabled Israel to exploit this circumstance and increase its arsenal of mass destruction weapons. It made Israel blackmail countries around the world to obtain aid, loans, and advanced weapons.

All this strengthened Israel, which was not met with a unified Arab stand. Therefore, Syria is working on bringing about a unified stand and removing the effects of the Gulf war, especially Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. The Syrian stand has not changed and is manifested in a commitment to international legitimacy. All countries that support international legitimacy agree on the topic of the occupation of Kuwait.

Responding to a question on Syria's answer to President Bush's letter and the PRC role in the Middle East peace initiative, Salman said: Regarding the answer to President Bush's letter, it will be issued in a short time. As for China, we have no special request because we are aware that Mr. Li Peng supports the causes of peace and justice, whether they are related to Syria or any other state in the world. He also supports implementing UN Security Council resolutions, particularly 242 and 338. A joint statement will be issued at the end of the visit affirming the deep ties between Syria and China and the identity of view in talks during the visit, which will certainly promote and develop Syrian-PRC ties.

Asked about the most important results of the economic talks between Syria and China, the minister said: Economic relations between the two countries are not new. However, as a result of this visit, these relations will expand, increasing the trade between the two countries. PRC loans to Syria will be subjected to an implementation program. Mr. Li Peng presented what China could offer to promote the development of the Syrian economy within the framework of China's present open-door policy.

Answering a question on Israeli's aggressive threats to Syria, the information minister said: Israel always tries to abort any peace initiatives. In coordination with the Zionist lobby, Israel is always attempting to launch aggressive campaigns against Syria with the aim of diverting the world's attention from the peace initiative, which the United States presented through President Bush. We believe that the campaign is coordinated between Israel and the Zionist lobby outside Israel. Israel hopes that this initiative will fail, as did the initiative that President Nixon presented in the past because Israel bases its policy on the principle that it does not need peace but rather wants to misinform world public opinion to avoid the UN Resolutions. While the whole world was denouncing the building of settlements, the Israeli settlement minister announced the building of new settlements in the occupied Arab territories. Israel has not responded to any world appeal or resolutions concerning the peace process.

Concluding his meeting, the minister said to Chinese reporters that he hoped they would convey what they have heard and seen to the friendly Chinese people, and inform them of events in the Arab region.

Vice President Receives Li

JN1307165491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1605 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus, 13 Jul (SANA)—At 1730 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received PRC State Council Premier Li Peng and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Syria's ambassador to China.

During the meeting, they discussed the international situation, the situation in the Middle East, and bilateral relations.

Li Remarks on Meetings

JN1307213591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] At 2000 today, PRC State Council Prime Minister Li Peng held a news conference at Tishrin Palace attended by Arab and foreign correspondents, as well as the Chinese journalists accompanying Mr. Li, and Syrian media representatives. Li's delegation was also present.

The Chinese prime minister opened the news conference by noting that yesterday morning and today he held six hours of extremely cordial, official talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad concerning international and Middle East developments, in addition to bilateral issues. The two sides, added Li, outlined the internal situation in their respective countries.

The world is now witnessing the demise of the old equation while the news one has yet to fully develop. The world, he added, needs a new order that will have to rest on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. This means, he explained, that every nation, region, or people have the right to choose their system of government, religion, and the lifestyle, and be assured of their territorial integrity. No country has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of any other country under any pretext. If the new world order is to be modelled on such lines, it will be possible for the world to achieve the progress and peace it seeks.

Li Peng indicated that the Middle East has figured prominently in the talks he had in Damascus, with President al-Asad outlining the causes and historical background of the problem. The two sides concurred that UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 must underlie a solution to the Middle East issue, that Israel must pull out of all occupied Arab territory, and that there should be a reinstatement of legitimate rights.

Mr. Li said he was impressed by the achievements Syria had made under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in the areas of defense and national economy, as well as the betterment of the national standard of living.

The two sides agreed on the importance of further visits between the leaders of the two countries in the interest of increased understanding and acquaintance. The Chinese premier said that an invitation to visit China from the Communist Party of China and the Chinese leadership had been extended to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. His excellency accepted the invitation with pleasure. Mr. Li described his talks in Damascus as lengthy, useful, and productive.

Asked about China's role in the Middle East peace process, he said his country is available for an effective role based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, its permanent membership on the Council, and its excellent relations with the states of the region.

Asked to evaluate his visit to Syria—the first such visit—and future relations with Syria, the PRC premier noted that Syria was the fifth stop on his tour. The visit to Syria was successful and should advance bilateral friendship and cooperation. His talks in Syria covered trade, economic, and technological relations, he added. The Syrian and Chinese delegations concurred that there was a great potential for increased bilateral trade and joint ventures in the two countries.

On the possibility of China supporting Syria's efforts to fortify itself against Israel's mounting acquisition of arms, and how far China could help Syria attain strategic parity with Israel, Li Peng said: I would like to point out that my talks with Syrian officials focused on political matters and the situation in the Middle East, without addressing military aspects. He spelled out the principles governing China's arms sales. He noted the supply of defensive weapons to strengthen the defenses of other countries so as to advance peace and stability in the region. He also emphasized that China does not attach political strings to its military cooperation with other states, noting that in this regard his nation has a limited potential.

PRC Spokesman Comments on Trip

JN1307194291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] PRC State Council Premier Li Peng has described Syria as a very important Middle East country. He said his country pays great attention to relations with Syria.

This came today in a statement to reporters by the official spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The spokesman pointed out that during the talks held between Premier Li Peng, President Hafiz al-Asad, and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Mr. Li expressed his joy on visiting Syria, an important Middle East country linked to his country by an old friendship.

The PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman added: During these talks, Hafiz al-Asad and Li Peng exchanged views on bilateral relations, international issues, and other issues of mutual interest.

He repeated what Premier Li said concerning his long-time ambition to visit Syria, and how happy he was to have this opportunity to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and convey the greetings of Yang Shangkun, the PRC Communist Party general secretary, which were joyfully accepted by President al-Asad. He invited President al-Asad to visit China and the latter accepted thankfully.

The spokesman pointed out that President Hafiz al-Asad expressed to Mr. Li and his delegation the deep appreciation for the firm stand the PRC has adopted on the Palestine question.

He added that President al-Asad expressed joy over receiving the PRC State Council premier in Syria. He said: Whether in the past or the present, our two countries generally agree on many points.

The spokesman cites Mr. Li as saying that the PRC greatly admires the achievements of the Syrian people and government under President Hafiz al-Asad to protect their sovereignty and national independence, realize economic progress, and improve their standard of living.

The PRC spokesman added that the Chinese side expressed its great satisfaction over the achievements and great progress in relations between the two sides during the past years. He said visits should be exchanged between the leaders of the two countries, in addition to expanding cooperation between them.

The spokesman pointed out that during his talks with President al-Asad, Li Peng affirmed that there are joint causes in which they should cooperate for their mutual benefit.

He added that Premier Li presented an evaluation of the new economic and political world order. He affirmed that such an order should be just and logical in peace developments.

Joint Communique Issued

JN1407083691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus, 14 Jul (SANA)—A joint communique was issued here today on the visit to the Syrian Arab Republic [SAR] by PRC State Council Premier Li Peng. The following is the text:

1. Within the framework of the meetings and consultations between the SAR and the PRC, aimed at reinforcing means of cooperation and friendship between the two countries, PRC State Council Premier Li Peng paid an official and cordial visit to Syria between 11 and 14 July 1991, at the invitation of the SAR Government, leading a high-ranking delegation.

Li Peng and the accompanying delegation were warmly welcomed in Damascus, where the mutual feelings of deep friendship and respect between the two peoples were rejuvenated.

2. SAR President Hafiz al-Asad received PRC State Council Premier Li Peng. The great guest also met with Vice President 'Abd- al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

All these meetings were held in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual confidence, and understanding. The talks centered on strengthening and deepening bilateral relations and issues of common interest. The two sides also reviewed the international situation and developments and their possible consequences.

The two sides noted with great satisfaction the identity of views regarding all the issues discussed. They underscored the importance of continued consultation and coordination, particularly in these serious times and these international developments to deepen ties of friendship and cooperation.

3. The two sides discussed in detail bilateral relations and ways to develop and deepen them. They expressed their satisfaction with the positive development in these relations, as well as their firm and continuous concern to reinforce and enhance them. The two sides expressed a special interest in developing the economic relations in agriculture, industry, and trade exchange. They also affirmed the need to complete the implementation of contracts concluded between them, and to give the necessary instructions to the competent quarters in both countries to expedite the adoption of the necessary measures to this effect.

4. The two sides discussed the ongoing developments in the international arena, and their effect on the Third World countries and nations. Their views were identical vis-a-vis the fact that the new world order should be based on the principles of the international law and legitimacy, respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, nonaggression, noninterference in other states' internal affairs, and each country's right to chose the regime it wants, provided that the United Nations should have an effective role in defining the features of this order, in resolving regional conflicts, and in consolidating world security and peace.

The two sides affirmed that any attempt to establish the new world order will remain incomplete if this order does not narrow the gap between the advanced countries and the Third World countries and if the exacerbating problem of debts, which burdens these countries, is not solved.

5. The two sides reviewed the grave situation in the Middle East and affirmed that peace and stability in this region can only be achieved through Israel's evacuation from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including the occupied Syrian Golan, and through the restoration of Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. The two sides announced their support for the efforts to reach a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement in the Middle East based on international legitimacy and the relevant UN resolutions within the framework of an international peace conference. They expressed their conviction that convening this conference under UN auspices with the attendance of the five Security Council permanent members and the other concerned parties is the best way to achieve its objective. The two sides called on the international community to tackle the situation in the Middle

East with the same momentum and enthusiasm it applied in the Gulf crisis, and not to adopt double standards.

6. The two sides expressed their deep concern over the massive Jewish emigration to the Arab occupied territories. Their views were identical that this emigration will encourage Israel to insist on its occupation of the Arab territories. The two sides considered Israel's establishment of settlements in the occupied territories, and its continued construction of settlements—thus violating UN resolutions and defying the will of the international community—as illegal, and aimed at neutralizing the peace process in the Middle East.

7. The two sides expressed their full support for the independence of Lebanon and its territorial integrity. They expressed their full support for the al-Ta'if Accord and for the steps taken by the Lebanese Government to spread its authority over all Lebanese soil. They call for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 on the full, immediate, and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Lebanese territories.

8. The two sides expressed their conviction that the regional arms race is a result of the lack of a just, comprehensive, and acceptable peaceful settlement of the conflict, which is sweeping over the entire region. Consequently, arms control is strongly linked to a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis.

The two sides explained that the initiatives aimed at arms control in the Middle East must be based on comprehensive, balanced, and effective principles, should include all countries, and aim at making the region free of all mass-destruction weapons, especially nuclear weapons.

9. The two sides discussed in detail and in depth the serious and negative repercussions of the invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf war on the region and its peoples. They stressed the need to respect the sovereignty and integrity of the territories of all regional countries. They also underscored the need to tackle the region's issues, and organize the region's security through its concerned governments without any foreign intervention. The two sides pointed to the role the United Nations can play in realizing stability and security in the region.

10. PRC State Council Premier Li Peng expressed his gratitude and thanks for the hospitality he and his delegation were accorded. He renewed the invitation of PRC President Yang Shangkun to President Hafiz al-Asad to visit the PRC. The president accepted the invitation gratefully. The date of the visit will be finalized later.

Li Departs, Sends Thank-You Note

JN1407093791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus—At 0900 today, PRC State Council Premier Li Peng and his wife left Damascus following a four-day official and cordial visit to Syria.

Heading those seeing him off at Damascus International Airport was Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his wife.

Li Peng sent a thank-you cable to Mahmud al-Zu'bi from his plane in which he expressed the gratitude of himself and his delegation to al-Zu'bi and the friendly government and people of Syria for the warm reception they were accorded during the visit. He also hoped that friendship and cooperation between the PRC and Syria will continue to grow and develop.

Commentary: Li Visit To Yield 'Positive Results'

JN1407154591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 14 Jul

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary today, TISHRIN said China was among the first countries to support a real international effort aimed at applying the same standards that were applied during the Gulf crisis. China was also in the forefront of countries that called for comprehensive disarmament. Accordingly, Israel should not turn into a huge arsenal of conventional and unconventional weapons, and such weapons should not be stockpiled in it at a time when an embargo is imposed on arms sales to the Arab countries. In this respect, we point out that China itself has not been spared pressures.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Li Peng's talks in Damascus with President al-Asad will certainly yield positive results in the interests of peace and justice, and a firmer international stance toward Israel's insurgence. It is natural for China to join other influential countries in demanding an end to the Israeli rebellion, justice in Palestine, and return of the occupied Arab territories to their Arab owners. This is the only viable way for a solid and real peace in the Middle East.

Daily Discusses Israel's 'Political Blackmail'

JN1207142391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 12 Jul 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "How to Secure Regional Peace," AL-BA'TH discusses Israel's political blackmail of the world and its leaders' utterances about Zionist designs on Arab territory. AL-BA'TH writes: Under the circumstances, the Arabs have no choice but to stick to their rights enshrined by UN resolutions. Syria's policies in this regard

represent the substance of pan-Arab strategies held sacred by Arab masses across the Arab homeland.

By insisting on a central and effective role for the United Nations in the peacemaking effort, Syria thus confirms a commitment to the agenda of the international community. The paper emphasizes that Arab and Syrian concern, to see the will of the international community prevail, makes it binding on the world to honor its promises and commitments and work toward enforcing the resolutions passed by the highest world bodies. In other words, Israel is the stumbling block to a fair and enduring peace in the region, the paper adds.

AL-BA'TH continues: Israel refuses to withdraw from occupied Arab land, scorns UN resolutions, and, through provocative and irresponsible statements, strives to thwart the ongoing peace process. Those who do want peace can expressly say so. If they are really interested in peace, they have only to comply with the UN resolutions and honor their commitments. Otherwise, peace in the region will remain elusive, and Israel will continue to pose a threat to global security and peace.

World Urged To Monitor 'Recalcitrant' Israel

JN1407160091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Along with the rest of the world, we find nothing new in world-wide expressions of desire to see a fair, comprehensive peace prevail in the Middle East, and amazement that Israel is obstructing every peace move or international effort to break the decades-old logjam. It is nothing new for us when such a heavyweight as China sympathizes with just causes, including ours. Neither are we surprised to hear the highest echelons of the Chinese leadership reiterate Beijing's principled stand of more than half a century of the Arab-Zionist conflict.

The important visit to Syria by the PRC State Council premier was an auspicious opportunity to underscore China's role in peace-oriented efforts in the region as an international heavyweight holding a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, whose leadership has typically shown itself to be clear-sighted in its approach to international affairs. The Chinese leader's visit to Damascus has shown us that we should be seeking the restitution of our rights, and supporting every step the world makes down the road to a fair peace, international legitimacy, and UN resolutions. We have demonstrated that we will not stand for the world being a jungle where an expansionist, aggressive Israel holds sway, flying in the face of all international laws, and jeopardizing global peace and security. Like most of the major influential world powers, China has come out for convening an international peace conference. It has also expressly lent its support to UN resolutions, and made it clear that the new world order must rest on the principle of self-determination for all peoples of the world. China has made it equally clear that eliminating weapons of mass destruction from the region must be tied and run parallel with the peace process so that the countries of the region address their energies to development and advancement rather than the acquisition of arms and preparation for war. While we in Syria are cooperating with various world circles to promote a fair and comprehensive peace in the region, we cannot but be jealous of our rights and determined to recover our occupied land as recognized by UN resolutions—a clear indication that we are bound by the principles that must underpin the embryonic new world order.

A recalcitrant Israel, dismissive and disdainful of these principles and in contempt of the will of the international community must be held in check in case the world relapses into war and confrontation from a consensus to firm up the foundations of security and peace.

Saudi Minister Arrives With Message for Al-Asad

JN1407101491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Saudi Health Minister Shaykh Faysal al-Hujaylan arrived in Damascus this morning. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Health Minister Dr. Muhammad Iyad al-Shatti, and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, he expressed his pleasure at visiting Syria, and said that he is bringing a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother, His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Al-Asad Receives Minister

JN1407124891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] At 1100 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Saudi Health Minister Shaykh Faysal al-Hujaylan. The meeting was attended by Saudi ambassador in Damascus, Shaykh Ahmad al-Kuhaymi.

Minister Al-Hujaylan Departs

JN1407182891 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Saudi Arabian Health Minister Shaykh Faysal al-Hujaylan left Damascus this afternoon. He was seen off at Damascus airport by Health Minister Dr. Muhammad Iyad al-Shatti and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

Police Seize 16.5 Kg Heroin Coming From Lebanon

JN1307191891 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus, 13 Jul (SANA)—The Customs Police in Homs Governorate have seized 16.5 kilograms of heroin being transported from Lebanon via Syria to a consumer country.

Major General Muhammad Khaddur, chief of the Crime Prevention Department, said in a press statement here today that this is considered to be the largest quantity of heroin ever seized in Syria on its way to a consumer country. He affirmed that specialized agencies in Syria are exerting great efforts to combat this bane. He added that there is efficient cooperation between Syria and a number of other Arab and foreign countries in this field.

Afghanistan

Three Mujahidin Factions Oppose Coalition

BK1407071291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0708 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, 14 July (AFP)—Three Sunni Mujahidin factions oppose the idea of a coalition government in Kabul and want to pursue their jihad, or holy war, against the pro-Soviet government there, a rebel source said Sunday.

"The muojahidin will never forget the crimes of the communist puppets in Kabul," a joint statement said in Arabic, denouncing "westernized Afghans" ready to accept "so-called political solutions that are impracticable."

The statement was issued by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction, which said the message was also signed by the Jamiat-e Eslami of Burhanuddin Rabbani and the Ettehad-e Eslami of Rasul Sayyaf.

A Jamiat official, who requested anonymity, minimized the importance of the text, which he said was published under pressure by Arabs who might have links with the Muslim Brotherhood, a radical Sunni organization.

Revived efforts by the United Nations to forge a political solution to the Afghan conflict have prompted new divergences within the guerrilla alliance.

Pakistani 'Interference and Aggression' Protested

LD1107182491 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned this morning to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This strong protest by the Republic of Afghanistan was conveyed to him by the director of the first political section:

On the basis of reliable information and evidence, the military circles of Pakistan continue their interference and aggression against the Muslim people and national sovereignty of Afghanistan. Pakistan sends their spies to the Republic of Afghanistan for subversion and continuation of the war. For example, two Pakistani subjects—Mohammad Yusof, son of [name indistinct], and 'Ali Shah, son of Latif Bari Shah—who had illegally entered the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan, were recently captured near Qandahar Province while engaged in terrorist activities and in inciting fundamentalist extremists to intensify the fighting.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan lodges a strong protest against such aggressive actions by the militarists of Pakistan, which are actions contrary to all accepted international norms and principles as well as against the provisions of the Geneva accords. The government of the Republic of Afghanistan asks the responsible authorities of Pakistan to refrain from the repetition of such aggression in the future.

Pakistan's 'Conspiracy' Charges Rejected

LD1307163191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The recent statement by Pakistani Border Police General Moqim Shah Moqim on the arrest of four men accused of hatching a conspiracy to kill Abdurrasul Sayyaf, prime minister of the interim government, and of causing 18 explosions in Pakistan, was rejected today during a news conference. According to the BIA military section, during this news conference, held at the Story Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and attended by the domestic and foreign journalists, Mohammad Kazim, in charge of the publication section of the Ministry of State Security, said:

This general claimed that these men carried out subversive actions in Pakistan with the cooperation of the [Afghan] Ministry of State Security and the Indian Intelligence Sevice. Such an allegation is camoflage for the recent economic and sociopolitical crises and other events in this country, which have aroused public discontent in Pakistan, and also caused Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to cancel his recent visit to Japan. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Launch Rocket Attack on Herat

BK1507111691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have launched a rocket attack on the divisional headquarters of the Kabul regime army in Herat, killing several troops. They also raided the Gardez cantonment, capturing a security post and a big quantity of arms and ammunition.

Mujahidin Take Control of Khanabad Oluswali

BK1207113691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have gained control over Khanabad Oluswali in Konduz Province, after inflicting heavy casulties on Kabul regime forces. Two hundred Kabul regime troops were killed and about 300 injured in the clash. The mujahidin also destroyed or captured dozens of tanks, military vehicles, and anti-aircraft and heavy guns, besides a huge quantity of heavy and light weapons in the encounter with Kabul regime forces.

Mujahidin Kill Over 150 Government Troops

BK1307145791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1444 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, 13 July (AFP)—More than 150 Afghan government troops have died in Parwan

Province, north of Kabul, where resistance guerrillas are waging a new offensive, the resistance MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] news agency said Saturday.

An unknown number of civilians, including women and children, also died in the "reprisal air strikes" unleashed by the government, according to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud a guerrilla leader known as "the lion of Panjshir."

MIDIA quoted Mr. Mas'ud as saying the mujahidin launched a series of attacks against government positions 10 July in the [passage indistinct] District.

The guerrillas destroyed 22 vehicles, 11 tanks and a major munitions dump in operation against the "64th and 66th divisions" of the government army.

Government troops retaliated with attacks against civilian and military areas, destroying a number of houses, MIDIA said.

According to the guerrillas, the fighting is continuing in a strategically important area south of the Salang tunnel, part of the vital route between Kabul and the Soviet border.

In Mr. Mas'ud's last operation 21 June, his troops captured Khajaghar, a town 10 kilometres (six miles) from the Soviet border that has changed hands three times in the last two months.

His guerrillas frequently launch attacks along the Salang highway, the main provisions route for Kabul.

Mujahidin Kill 24 Kabul Soldiers in 2 Operations

BK1307133691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce fighting between mujahidin and Kabul regime troops in different parts of the country. Mujahidin in two separate operations at a place between (?Grishk) town on Herat-Qandahar Highway and Lashkar, the headquarters of Herat Province, killed 24 Kabul regime troops, including seven senior officials. Five tanks were damaged and nine trucks loaded with arms were destroyed in the operation.

666 'Extremists' Die in Recent Clashes

LD1107091691 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0514 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] [no place-name as received] 10 July, BAKHTAR—During the mopping up operations of the Armed Forces carried out in the Kabul, Vardak, Qandahar, Herat, Badghis, Jowzjan and other provinces more than 1,250 enemies were either killed or wounded last week (3-9 July 1991), reported an authorized military source to BAKHTAR today.

Large quantities of arms and ammunition including 620 ground-to-ground rockets, 430 warheads, 120 pieces of light and heavy arms, thousands of bullets, 6 arms depots, 25 strongholds and hideouts, 21 anti-personnel mines, 98 cannon shells, 115 mortar shells and 2 blow-pipe ground to air rockets were seized and 16 vehicles loaded with arms, a set of BM-1, 2 heavy machine-guns, countless bullets, munition depot and several strongholds of the enemy destroyed, during that period.

Sanguinary clashes which took place among the Gulbuddin, Jamiat, Sayyaf, Harekat and other extremists formation in the Helmand, Vardak, Nangahar, Qandahar, Herat and Samangan Provinces claimed the lives of 666 extremists, and 360 others wounded, in that period.

Two armed groups of 50 men which were carrying armed activities in Balkh Province joined national reconciliation policy in this period. 'Ali Shah, a Pakistani spy who illegally entered Qandahar to carry anti-state and subversive activities was arrested.

Over 240 refugee families consisting of 2,360 people returned to their houses. Over 230 mines planted by the extremists on the Gardeyz-Ghazni highway and 20 kg of explosives hidden in Kabul were discovered and defused.

Notes number 2001-2010 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on violations by Pakistan from the provisions of the Geneva Accords were submitted to the Office of the UN Secretary General in Afghanistan and Pakistan (OSGAP) in that period, too.

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Returns From USSR Visit

BK1307161691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman returned to Dhaka this afternoon after a four-day goodwill visit to the Soviet Union. Mr. Rahman visited Moscow from the 9th to the 12th of this month at the invitation of Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, Mr. Mustafizur Rahman said the visit will strengthen bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the Soviet Union. His talks with Mr. Bessmertnykh covered bilateral relations, including economic cooperation, development, trade, and commerce. The cooperation in power sector also came up for discussion. Mr. Mustafiz indicated the possibility of increase in export of garments, toiletries, and ceramic products from Bangladesh to the Soviet Union. The Soviet foreign minister has been invited to visit Bangladesh. The visit is likely to take place next winter.

Joint Statement With Moscow on Rahman Visit

BK1307132291 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Bangladesh and the Soviet Union have reaffirmed their willingness to continue to develop and increase bilateral cooperation in the interest of the two peoples

and [words indistinct] peaceful world. This was stated in a joint statement issued in Moscow Friday at the end of Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman's four-day official visit to the Soviet Union.

The statement said: Talks were held between the foreign ministers of the two countries on a broad range of issues of common interest. The talks revealed the proximity of approaches to disarmament issues, the problems of establishing a just and equitable international economic order, greater cooperation among the world community for environmental protection and environmental emergency situations. The Soviet Union and Bangladesh advocated taking further steps to strengthen stability in Asia and the Pacific regions through confidence-building measures and dialogue in order to prevent confrontation. The Soviet side welcomed the efforts to further promote interaction between the South Asian states within the framework of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation—SAARC. The Bangladesh foreign minister was informed about the perestroyka trend now under way in the Soviet Union and basic parameters of the upcoming treaty on the union of the USSR as a new type of sovereign democratic state.

Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman called on Soviet Vice President Gennadiy Yanayev at the Kremlin in Moscow Friday. The two leaders discussed bilateral ties and issues of common interest. Mr. Yanayev referred to Bangladesh's role in the SAARC, the Organization of Islamic Conference, the forum of the least developed countries, and the United Nations for the furtherance of peace. He noted the installation of the democratic government in Bangladesh following general elections and wished all success to the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

India

LTTE Involvement in Gandhi Assassination Viewed

BK1507091991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said that there are indications that LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was involved in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. Without divulging details, the home minister told the Rajya Sabha today that the investigatioin by the Special Investigation Team so far led the government to believe the fact. He said even though the LTTE has been denying this role, the government had the suspicion right from the beginning.

The matter was raised during the zero hour by Mr. Kapil Verma, Congress-I. The house witnessed heated exchanges between the members from Tamil Nadu belonging to the opposition and the ruling party. In the Lok Sabha, raising the matter during the zero hour, Mr. Chitta Basu, Forward Block, demanded a comprehensive statement in the reported claim of the LTTE of its involvement in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination. He said the LTTE claim has wider ramifications and can have a bearing on the Indo-Sri Lanka relations. AIDMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] members alleged that a DMK member of Parliament has direct links with the LTTE chief, Prabhakaran.

The home minister also assured the Rajya Sabha that the government will provide all possible protection to Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and her children. He was responding to the demand made by the members that the Special Protection Group [SPG] Act should be suitably amended to provide security by the SPG for the family of Rajiv Gandhi. Mr. Chavan said he will convey the feelings of the house to his cabinet colleagues who can decide about amending the Act. The matter was raised by Mr. Ratnakar Pandey of the Congress-I. Joining him, the members said there is an international conspiracy to eliminate the entire family. A view was expressed that the matter should not be taken lightly but gone into thoroughly. They also referred to the threat to the lives of the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Miss Jayalalitha, and the union labor minister Mr. K. Ramamurthy. Sharing the sentiments, the deputy chairman, Dr. Najma Heptullah, said the whole house is concerned about the matter.

Lok Sabha Discusses Confidence Motion

BK1207130691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha discussed today inconclusively the motion seeking a vote of confidence in the government with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the Janata Dal opposing it and the Muslim League extending support to the Congress-I ministry. The one-line motion was moved by the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, shortly after the question hour. The voting on the motion is scheduled for Monday [15 July].

Initiating the discussion, the leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, criticized the manner in which political and economic decisions have been taken by the minority government. Mr. George Fernandes of the Janata Dal said that the performance of the Congress-I government during the last 21 days does not inspire confidence. He wanted to know whether the government is under pressure from the IMF to cut defense expenditure and to do away with subsidies on food and fertilizers. In his brief intervention, the prime minister asserted that it is absolutely wrong to accuse that the government is under pressure to sign the nonproliferation treaty for getting the IMF loan. He made it clear that there is no such conditions nor will the government yield to sign the treaty. The prime minister said that plans are being made to fulfill promises made in the [Congress-I election] manifesto and the results cannot be expected in a short span. Mr. Sharad Dighe of the Congress-I appealed to the opposition parties to consider whether it is worthwhile opposing the motion of confidence. Mr. Sulaiman Sait of the Muslim League said the performance of the government cannot be judged in a matter of 20 days and it has to be given a chance to function.

VOA Station in Sri Lanka Fuels Anxiety

BK0907123791 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 5 Jul 91 p 12

[By M.K. Tikku]

[Text] The revival of the plan to set up the Voice of America's [VOA] huge transmission facility in Sri Lanka might have escaped public attention—at least for the present—were it not for protests by the Roman Catholic Bishop of coastal Chilaw, where the new station is proposed to be sited. Rev. Frank Fernando's concerns were confined to the impact the setting up of the new transmitters on a plot of land over 300 acres in size would have on the local culture and way of life. He has since been assured both by the Sri Lankan Government and the US representatives that this would, in fact, benefit the local population in terms of improvements in infrastructure such as new roads.

The report has, however, fuelled fresh anxieties on the Indian side, which are far more complex than the Rev. Father's objections. Though the VOA had been running a tiny transmission station in Sri Lanka since the early fifties, it signed a fresh agreement with the Sri Lankan Government in early 1985 providing for the setting up of a massive relay transmission station capable of covering the region extending from the Far East to the Gulf, including a sizeable chunk of mainland China. A huge plot of land 318 acres in size was earmarked at Iraniwela in Chilaw, about 80 kms north of Colombo, and a ground breaking ceremony performed in March the same year. The Indian reaction to the proposal was quick and sharp. And it became yet another bone of contention in the already strained Indo-Sri Lanka relations at the time.

The Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement of 29 July 1987—which marked some kind of a turning point—also took notice of the proposed relay transmission station. In the Annexures to the Agreement, it was set down that Sri Lanka's agreements with foreign broadcasting organisations "will be reviewed to ensure that any facilities set up by them in Sri Lanka are used solely as public broadcasting facilities and not for any military or intelligence purposes".

Subsequently, the United States indicated that it had lost interest in the Sri Lankan site amid suggestions that it would locate the relay station elsewhere. This is now followed by a revival of the earlier proposal with plans to start construction of the 50 million facility in right earnest.

As part of the deal, the Sri Lankan Government would receive an annual amount believed to be in the neighborhood of a couple of hundred thousand dollars as lease money for the land. In addition, the VOA has also promised to give some transmission equipment for the Sri Lankan radio. Even the two together, add up to a modest contribution and may well match the sum the Indian Government would be spending on some of the Sri Lankan Tamil refugee camps. It is therefore not the financial content of the deal that makes it attractive to Sri Lanka, but its political overtones.

Right from the outset, President R. Premadasa had not been too enamoured of the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Agreement, especially its Annexures. And he has made no secret of it. Shortly after assuming the presidency in 1989, he toyed with the idea of having the Agreement replaced by a friendship treaty. The Sri Lankan drafts of the proposed treaty did not say much, while the Indian drafts seemed to say too much in Sri Lankan eyes. The exercise could not go very far, and put in bureaucratic terminology, the two drafts must still be "under consideration" in the Foreign Ministry in Colombo!

The revival of the VOA proposal therefore could be interpreted as one way of distancing the official Sri Lankan position from the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Agreement—or, to put it more bluntly, to show up the irrelevance of the 1987 Agreement vis-a-vis the ground situation.

The Sri Lankan Government has obviously felt encouraged in this by the fact that New Delhi's Sri Lanka policy in the last couple of years or so has increasingly been marked by a lack of coherence and orientation. With frequent ministerial changes at the helm in South Block [Indian External Affairs Ministry], this could hardly be prevented. Had it not been for this, the least that Colombo would have done was to take India into confidence on what safeguards it had in mind regarding the Indian apprehensions on this subject, rather than leave New Delhi's concerns to be conveyed later through diplomatic channels.

In our time, spies do no more appear as hatted men in dark glasses and long overcoats as they used to do on the back-covers of spy-thrillers. In the context of current technology, it would be difficult to determine what part of sophisticated electronic equipment can be used to what purposes. That is why New Delhi is not too sure of the ultimate design of the VOA transmitting station's various uses and capabilities.

It is of course a relevant argument that equipment such as satellite stations are already capable of garnering too much information. On the other hand, it is pointed out that in intelligence gathering, each source gives a different insight and each constitutes an important input. From the Indian viewpoint, it is also pointed out that in the summer of 1989 the Sri Lankan Government had used the transmitters of a religious broadcasting network located outside Colombo for beaming certain broadcasts at India. It is cited in New Delhi as an instance of the 'versatile' uses a particular radio equipment can be put to.

Terrorists, Police Killed in Uttar Pradesh

BK1407035091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, 10 terrorists were killed in two separate encounters with security forces in Pilibhit yesterday. According to an official spokesman, the encounters, which lasted for six hours, took place in a forest.

One police subinspector was also seriously injured in the encounter. Police sources told our Lucknow correspondent that most of the killed terrorists carried awards on their heads.

Meanwhile, in Shahjahanpur, the police party which was returning after the encounter was ambushed by terrorists in which four police personnel, including a subinspector, were killed. Massive combing operation is on and a red alert has been sounded in the entire Tarai area.

Three 'Militants' Killed

BK1507041091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] In Punjab, three militants have been killed in separate incidents, while a close relative of an MP [member of parliament] has been kidnapped. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, four car-borne militants kidnapped Mr. Mithan Lal, the president of the local truck operators union, from Tapa town in Sangrur District yesterday. The victim, a cousin of the MP from Chandigarh, Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal, was standing at a petrol pump when kidnapped.

Nine 'Militants' Killed, Two Arrested in Punjab

BK1507080891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] In Punjab, nine militants have been killed, while two were arrested, in separate incidents since last evening. According to an official spokesman, seven militants were killed in different encounters with security forces in Amritsar, Bhatinda, and Ludhiana Districts. The security forces also arrested two militants from Amritsar during raids. Elsewhere in the state, unidentified gunmen shot dead three persons.

Six 'Militants' Killed, Nine Arrested in Punjab

BK1307051291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] In Punjab, six militants have been killed and nine arrested in separate incidents since yesterday. According to an official spokesman, one militant was killed and another committed suicide following an encounter in Ludhiana District. One militant each was killed in Ferozepore, Gurdaspur, and Bhatinda Districts in separate encounters with security forces while one arrested militant was killed when the other militants ambushed the police party escorting him in Amritsar District. Meanwhile, the security forces have arrested nine militants during raids and brief encounters in Faridkot, Ferozepore, Patiala, and Amritsar Districts.

Assam Government Releases 350 Militants

BK1207130891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] The Assam government has released 350 ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists. An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the cases of the remaining are under scrutiny. Around 600 activists are presently under detention in the state.

Iran

Rafsanjani's 12 Jul Friday Prayers Sermon

LD1207171691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1120 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 12 July—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. The first sermon took longer than intended, so I have to shorten my second sermon. There are several important points, however, that are essential to our people, as this is the start of the month of Moharram [first month of the Arabic lunar calendar]. I will try to discuss internal, regional, and world issues in one discussion. God willing, you will listen carefully, and if you have any views that oppose any part of my speech, you can inform me of your views one way or another. Before the start of my discussion, may I remind you of Social Security Week. This is a great responsibility; we must honor this week. God willing, the officials of that important organization can uphold their duties. We have a few important world and regional issues that are linked to the important internal issues of our country. We can mention them in one discussion, and reach some sort of concrete conclusion. One of them is the issue of disarmament, which is on the agenda of the world arena. The other is the Middle East peace conference. There is the issue of regional security; there are other issues, such as Afghanistan, Kashmir, and Lebanon.

We have already talked about regional security, Lebanon, Afghanistan, and Kashmir; the other two main issues must be discussed and examined, and the issue of Iraq, which is linked to these very same issues. Also, our response to those issues must be examined. Our esteemed leader, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i [crowd chants support for Khamene'i] has informed us of his clear position concerning two important issues. First, he warned us concerning internal problems, and second, concerning disarmament. I believe these issues are linked. My discussion will explain his grounds for concern, and it will also expound his views. This is very important to us. Our leader has clearly stated his views, so we must stop and think about these issues, and see what he wants from us.

Today, it is mainly America that directs the issues of the region and the world. There are other countries, but it is America which administers and decides. This is very clear. The issue of disarmament is very ambiguous. On the one hand it is very easy to have a policy on this issue, on the other, it could be very difficult. When Chinese Premier Li Peng was here, I had a long discussion with him to see how much he knows concerning this issue. I

realized that he has serious doubts, just like us, even though China is one of the five countries that gathered in Paris and issued a statement. Even they are lost. What do they want from disarmament? If disarmament means all the world—The Soviet Union, the United States, France, China, and England—putting aside their dangerous weapons, that is a good phenomenon. That should be supported. It is completely acceptable. They have started doing this a little. Once in a while they destroy missiles in the Soviet Union and the United States. However, we do not think this is practical; we do not see any signs indicating that that is their objective. There is no mention of American or Soviet disarmament. Even if there is, it is in a way that they will be left with the strongest hand in the world. Since we think that there is a very small chance of the world going toward multilateral disarmament, we will not waste our time. We will wait and see if they give us any signs indicating that they are serious.

If disarmament does not concern all the world, then what do they mean. Well, they have said it concerns the Middle East first. They say: Middle East disarmament. Where is the Middle East? This in itself is a geographical issue. It is not very clear, it is ambiguous. First, why the Middle East? They say: There are a lot of crises here; there was the Iran-Iraq war; there is Israel, and Syria, and the like. If this is the case, there are other crisis-ridden places. Right now, the Balkans are as dangerous as the Middle East; the Baltics are as dangerous as the Middle East. You can see that the small Baltic states are on the verge of confrontation with the Soviets. They want independence, but the USSR will not give it to them. The West supports them. This is no small issue. In the Balkans, you can see the situation in Yugoslavia. Other countries of that region also have difficulties. These problems have only just begun. There is civil war right now. I do not have enough time to talk about other countries. There are problems in the Far East, in other areas. The Middle East is not the only crisis-ridden region.

First they should say where in the Middle East; they have not clarified that. Another point which is not clear: How far is disarmament to go? What weapons should be taken away from them? Is it nuclear bombs—if they have them? Is it chemical weapons—if they have any? Or is it long-range aircraft, or long-range missiles that you want to take away? Sometimes they say mass-killing weapons, and sometimes they say mass-destruction weapons. They have not defined that, either. When we asked Chinese Premier Li Peng, he really did not know what they meant. He had no idea about what could be taken away, or what has been taken away. All that is not clear.

The third point: Who are they? From whom do you want to take weapons away? This disarmament, about which there is so much hue and cry: What does it involve? Question: Will you take Israel's weapons away? Israel is definitely in the Middle East. Will you take away Israel's nuclear bombs, chemical weapons, missiles, long-range aircraft, or not? If the answer is that Israel, Syria, and Egypt will all be disarmed in that area, that is something to be discussed. That is, we could discuss it and express our views on it. We do not see any signs that this is the case. They are arming Israel right this minute. A large portion of the weapons they brought to fight Iraq, they took to Israel, and said: It is our store. This cannot be done. Could Syria be disarmed while leaving Israel alone? Could Egypt be disarmed while Israel is left alone? For now, we will not talk further about this. Therefore, the answer to this question must be clarified. There is no clue. We do not know what they seek with all the hue and cry they are raising in the world.

Do you want to disarm Pakistan? If Pakistan were disarmed, should India have its weapons? Their forces are facing each other on the border, and periodically there is a clash, and some people are killed. The issue of Kashmir is like a lighted match near the powder keg that exists between them. Could Pakistan be disarmed while India is told to keep its weapons? Could you disarm India at all? If you were to disarm India, what about China? India is an 800-million-long neighbor of China [as heard]. Could China be left armed while India is disarmed? What is your answer to that? We have so far not heard any answers. These are very serious questions.

The same points apply to Africa, Latin America, and all of Asia. They have picked on the Middle East. Do you wish to disarm Turkey? During the same war, you gave very modern weapons to Turkey. The factory building F-16 fighter planes is fully active, and makes very good planes. Should Turkey be disarmed? Today we hear that you have made a $500 million arms deal with Saudi Arabia. We do not understand what that means. They have used Iraq's illogical, harsh, and arbitrary behavior as an excuse, and are making such comments. There is a serious ambiguity in this matter. Therefore, we do not see any goodwill in these conditions. The evidence points the other way; it shows ill will.

The second point, the peace conference—that is, peace between Arabs and Israel—also has several serious ambiguities. Do you really want the Arabs and Israel to make peace? Should the four million homeless Palestinians return to Palestine? If they want to return, could the four milion return, despite the existence of the Israeli Government. If they do not return, what do you intend to do with the four million Palestinians? Those miserable souls, who are under pressure from all sides, who are in Lebanon, all over the world, Jordan, or elsewhere.

If you have goodwill, why are you making so much effort to take Jews from all over the world to Israel? One cannot accept that you want to make peace, while on the one hand you take Jews from Ethiopia, Albania, Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union, and anywhere you can, and quickly airlift them to Israel. We would not believe it even if you said it. How is it that Israel is building new towns in the occupied territories every day? If America were to claim that it is not strong enough to stop Israel, no one would believe it. Of course, some people think that the Israelis have influence in America, that they

have propaganda influence, that they are in the congress, or in such and such a place, that they put internal pressure on America; all that is talk. If the Americans wanted to remove the influence of a few Zionists from America, a propaganda wave—the kind they are good at in their own type of game—would be enough to sweep out all of them. It is not like that. It is all an excuse. We, who are versed in the secrets of dealing with such issues, understand.

You are not stopping Israel from building new towns; you are encouraging Israel to bring Jews there; and you recently threatened Syria, yet you are nowhere near a peace conference. While in Lebanon you are disarming the Palestinians, those wretched souls who have nowhere to go, you are keeping Israel in southern Lebanon. You are throwing the Palestinians out of southern Lebanon, saying Israel should stay because it is not safe. Is Israel, with all its might, not safe from a bunch of pious Hizballah forces who are fighting there, such that it cannot capture Lebanon and create a safe strip for itself. They are making ambiguous, doubtful and disappointing remarks. Therefore, it is not clear to us. No, that is wrong, it is not unclear. They are simply not answering our questions.

On the one hand they say that they intend to establish a rapid deployment force in the north of Iraq; yet, we were never really told why they jumped from the south to the north of Iraq. The Americans were in the south; they liberated that area and left, giving the Iraqis a free hand to suppress the Shiites. They then went to the north, to preserve that area. Now they say they intend to set up a rapid deployment force to be stationed in the southeast of Turkey—and areas close to us. These are the questions.

At this very moment, you have made designs of which we are well aware; to our east, in Pakistan, you are placing pressure on the Pakistanis to change their policies. We know of these developments. As for Afghanistan, well, you will not let it acquire tranquility.

You go everywhere talking of human rights, yet many people are being killed in Kashmir. Yesterday, two or three days ago, over 100 innocent people were killed, yet you present them as terrorists, because somewhere they had captured some Jews. These are the people who have given martyrs for a long time, simply because they say they want UN resolutions to be implemented. You cannot even come to terms with such people. Therefore, claims for disarmament which are put forward by such people cannot be convincing. We cannot be convinced that there is serious conviction behind it. [crowd chants slogans]

As to the security of the region, I must say that ambiguities abound; the presence of their fleet here is what we have already talked about. These are the factors which place a question mark on the future moves of arrogance in the region.

Now, what shall we do here? I am referring to domestic issues. Well, through the policies we enforced during the past year or so, we proved that Iran is not a place for adventurism, and that hers is not a runaway revolution. Its program is clear, and so are its remarks. Our policy during the Persian Gulf crisis; our approach to the issue of the refugees and world problems; our presence in Mecca and the trouble-free holding of rites in Mecca—they thought we were going to make trouble there—all these show that Iran has a clear policy, and that accusations of adventurism levelled against Iran were false. So those who look at the events in the region objectively will, and can, talk of Iran as a center which could have a leading role in the region's security. Iran is a power that can be counted on—here and there we see such signs. Yet we feel there is a danger, so we must be on guard inside our country. Around us you can see problems—Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, and other issues. It is in the light of such conditions that we see issues such as disarmament being raised.

What assets can we use to resist or to confront the danger, considering that so many powers around us are armed to the teeth? What we have had so far is our national unity, solidarity of our ranks, and sincere relations between the officials, the leader, and the people. When I learned that the leader had to warn so agonizingly that he believed those issues to be crimes, and that he could not tolerate them [reference to recent speech by Khamene'i warning critics that talking against the government is a crime], I felt the point was clear at this juncture, under those conditions.

It is one thing for us to nurture our own thoughts and our own paths; it is quite another when we speak under these very complicated conditions in the world. Of course, there may not be a danger, as such; I am not raising the alarm, as such. Perhaps they have realized that Iran could be the anchor for regional stability. But one cannot be unduly optimistic. So we must be fully alert as we continue our path with intelligence. We must maintain our unity. Unfortunately, I sometimes feel these elements [unity and solidarity] are threatened; they are in danger of being weakened. This prompted the leader's warning. Of course, everybody who puts in an effort has goodwill. I do not intend to talk about it as if the regime is facing a serious problem—prompting our enemies to say that the Islamic regime has a problem. In reality, we have no problem. Our duty is to give warnings and maintain alterness. Some may not accept our words; they may go their own way. But at least these remarks can enlighten the people and help protect them.

We have evidence and many clues which make us surmise that our enemies intend to sow seeds of discord among us. That is what I said in my previous sermon. Today, the strategy of the enemies of the revolution is to create disunity in Iran. They interpret every move to mean that there is a power struggle. If one makes a sincere comment on social problems, it is soon branded as a sign of a power struggle. Do you remember the previous case when I last spoke here? As soon as I had spoken, Radio Israel reported that in my Friday prayers I made accusations against Haj Ahmad Aqa, the son of

the imam. Then we saw some people at home propagating the same line. It would amount to ignorance if this line is adopted.

Thousands of times, we have said that we have no differences of view with Haj Ahmad Aqa. We were on the same path with him before the revolution; of course he was younger than us, but he was the son of the imam, and active in the campaign. Since the victory of the revolution, we have had identical views on almost all issues, or in a majority of cases, a majority close to unanimity. Seldom does it happen that we may differ in our views. He is a member of the Supreme National Security Council, and is aware of all the policies.

On that day, I said something in general terms; I gave some advice to everybody, telling them not to move toward disunity, which makes our enemies happy. One can criticize without hurting somebody else, and without placing question marks on others. That is the way we must continue—which we do.

I say this because we are on the eve of two important elections: First, for the Islamic Consultative Majles, and second, the council elections. Both of these are general elections, they span the entire society. We must formulate our election campaign policy. Practically, it has already started. People are speaking in their areas; there is nothing wrong with one introducing oneself to the people. In fact, this is the way of elections, this is the correct path of democracy. We must be careful to keep our Islamic and revolutionary path, just as the imam used to say. The imam used to say: Take hold of the positive aspects, leave the negative ones. In an election campaign, it is not good to discredit one's opponent. One must introduce oneself, present something better than one's opponent. One can give proposals. If one opposes a certain proposal, one can say: I have another solution. This is the way, things can be discussed and judged; our society will judge. If, on the eve of elections, we seek to agitate and confuse the people's minds; if we do any of these things, from whatever side...[sentence unfinished] This is exactly what the leader [khamene'i] warned against. [crowd chants in support]

Let me be more clear and open, as is my fashion when I deal with the people: We have certain problems in our society. We can look at these from both sides, we can isolate their agitating aspects and make an issue of them in our system. If we look at the issue concretely and honestly, we can talk about the problems and justify society. I will give you a true example. We decide to increase the price of one of the state products, for example, fuel oil, oil, or the like. In such economic reforms, a group of people lose out; if they have goodwill, they will examine the case; they will mention its positive points and its negative points, if it has any. If they accept the reform, they point out its positive points. If they have a negative outlook, they take those negative points that any social reform would have, and talk to the people and agitate.

I will clarify the point for you to see what can be done with this. One of our serious difficulties is our economic structure, now that we want to do away with the centralized, war-time economy, and create a balanced, peacetime economy. We have very serious problems, including state prices. During the war, it was dangerous; nothing was done. Now, we have to see if we can bear these prices. Fuel oil: What do you think its price is? At what price is the state providing this to the people? First, let us see whose it is? Is it justified? Fuel oil, all oil products belong to all the people—those in the villages, the tribes—they share the wealth with you and me, we have an equal share. Our method of distribution was this: We would distribute these items to the people at extra cost. This benefits one group of people greatly; another group gets no benefit from this. There are some people who do not use fuel oil in their lives, so it does not affect them. Another group benefits greaty from this state of affairs. One person has electricity for lighting, for his swiming pool's water filtration system, his washing machine, dishwasher, his several fridges, his freezer. The majority of the people have one 50-watt lamp at the most. Many do not even have that, they have candles. We are all partners. What sort of justice is this? Why should we spend 10 times the cost price so that one man can use electricity while another remains deprived? The ones who claim to support social justice are the ones who say such words.

If we announce right now: Fuel oil is free; go, pick up the fuel from the country's refineries, from Tabriz, Tehran, Esfahan, or Abadan, and distribute it to the people in the villages and the town suburbs. You will not be able to sell it for four rials per iter. Make a calculation for yourself: Let us say a 20-tonne truck, which carries 20,000 liters, will charge you around 60-70,000 tomans to take the fuel from Abadan to another part of the country. You will have to pay three to four tomans per liter. OK, you say: Carry the fuel in pipelines. The pipelines cost the same! Forget the infrastructural work needed—use these roads, these trucks, take the fuel for free. You will not be able to do it. Is this justice? Is this right? We buy a lot of fuel oil from abroad. It is expensive. We buy a liter of fuel oil for around seven to eight cents. Work out the cost of this at the true rate of conversion [dollars to rials]. We give it to a factory and tell the manager: Produce this. Is this justice in our country? Is this the rule of the lord of the age? Is this Islamic rule? Is this revolutionary? How do the people benefit from this? Why should the majority not use this. We provided mazut [fuel oil] for 1.5 rials. Can you provide soil, earth, simple earth for 1.5 rials to the factories? This is not administering the country; this is setting fire to the country!

Of course, if I was thinking of myself—if I was thinking the people are going to say: Hurrah!—I would have done this. If I think about the future of the people, I say: The country must be straightened out, the economy must be straightened out, the people must benefit. I call this treason! [as heard]

Of course, because for years we acted wrongly, we cannot suddenly deliver a shock and say that immediately, prices will be real prices. On the other hand, the laws passed by the Majles, the laws of the plan say that the Petroleum Ministry, the Water and Electricity Ministry, [corrects himself] the Energy Ministry, are not allowed to make use of the general budget for their plans. It means that if they wish to build power generators, they must be self-financing; if they lay pipes they must be self-financing; if they wish to build oil refineries, they must be self-financing.

There are ministries which have no income; they have losses. Last year we saw that the situation was dangerous, so we postponed raising prices by a year. We said we would take loans. We borrowed 60 billion tomans from the Central Bank, so that last year's work could be performed, because there was no government budget for them. This year, too, despite the fact that we have increased prices, still we have to borrow 40 billion tomans from the Central Bank. We have said that during a period of five years they should gradually increase their revenues, so that they can then be self-sufficient and can function on their own.

Who are these people who make so much noise in the country, who incite the people by saying that prices are too high? Do these newspapers imagine that they are serving the people? This is a kind of demagogy; it is deceiving the public, to tell illiterate people that the government is forcing prices up, and that the way to bring prices down is to give the oil, which belongs to the people, to the bullies to use for their own benefit. This is how they want us to run our economy.

You have no idea how much money the government owes the Central Bank. If you knew the figures, you would be shocked. For 10 years, we have continued to borrow and spend. This is how we spent it: Oil, which costs us 20 tomans, we have sold to the public at the price of 2 rials. I am not exaggerating when I say 20 tomans. The real cost is even higher. On the other hand, something became very popular in the country. Many tankers would visit gas stations, fill up with fuel oil, and then sell the oil to people who had central heating in their homes. The tanker drivers paid four rials for the oil, but they sold it for one toman, or gave a reduction of two rials. This became their occupation, to fill up their tankers with fuel oil and sell it to houses with central heating. Who is going to accept such corruption, or condone it continuing?

At times, one feels a pain in the bottom of one's heart. One feels very sad when certain individuals, who understand these things, who are in possession of facts and figures, still engage in inciting the people. They say things to make people think that they are trying to help them. Of course, the majority of people see through their remarks and, therefore, they do not have much affect on society, but why should they say such things?

This is the situation in many sectors of your country. For many years, we purchased tea from the northern areas at a low price. Neither the tea planters nor the tea processing plants made any profit. All worked at a loss. The only result was that about 10,000 hectares of our valuable tea plantations were taken out of production, and we were forced to import tea. Even the customers did not receive tea at low prices, because we could not import sufficient quantities. We bought it at a low price, but the middlemen always made the biggest gains. The government sustained the losses, but the middlemen benefitted. We said that we should purchase tea at realistic prices. Of course, this was also a decree which was issued by the Majles. The Majles has also said that they will approve realistic prices. We wanted a law, and it decided that if we paid the farmers so much, they would be able to make a living, and would be encouraged.

During my recent trip to Gilan, the people there told me that the people are so sincere that even as the result of this decision, which was only made a few months ago, many thousands of hectares of land have been recultivated, and they are even making use of hillsides, and they are making use of sprinklers. This year alone they have increased their production by 10,000 tonnes of tea. Our society responds in such a way. Some people chant slogans, however, saying that the government is raising prices, and a few children, or gullible individuals may believe them. However, this is not the way to win votes. I don't regard it as correct to act in such a way during the elections. We should tell the people the truth, and the people should at least be aware of these issues.

Let us now turn to the issue of exports. For many years, the government decided to support exports, and gave foreign exchange at a differential rate. All to no avail. We made a decision which, of course, increases some prices. We told the exporters that whatever they export, they can keep the foreign exchange. Suddenly, their profits increased a lot. The foreign exchange we gave them was at 40 tomans per dollar; now they earn 130 or 140 tomans. The people rushed to export. In the first two months of this year [year beginning 21 March 1991] alone, for which we have a report, our exports have doubled. It is expected that they will constantly increase. This will reach a point when even the sand, the stones, and the grass of this country will also be exported, will be turned to foreign exchange, will be turned into industrial goods, and will be returned to our country. This is the solution. But when we do this, the prices of certain goods are bound to rise. Those things which are exported will be more expensive at home. Carpets will be more expensive, dried fruits will be more expensive. Items which are exported will become a little more expensive at home. However, this is the way to the salvation of the country.

If I wish to think of my own personal popularity, if as a government, I wish to chant slogans and engage in hypocrisy, I would not do such things. I would say, let the next government be responsible for itself and do what it wants to do. However, this is not how I think. I think that

the revolution should become successful, even if I may face defeat [chants including "Khamene'i, Hashemi, we will support you"].

I cannot raise all of the economic issues here. I only mentioned one or two examples so that you will understand that we are facing some serious problems with this method of price fixing. We used to sell copper at 25 tomans per kilo. Coppersmiths would buy it, bang it with a hammer several times to change it into scrap copper, and would then export it and sell it at $3. There is a large gap between $3 and 25 tomans. Everyone was smuggling the metal. Then we fixed a more realistic price. First, it became cheaper in the market because they were not smuggling it out of the country anymore; second, the government's earnings rose. The copper complex balanced its books, too. Previously, the factory had losses and asked the government for assistance. Well, some people might criticize the higher copper prices, and others would accept them. Something quite common these days.

I follow the newspaper articles on the hypocricy of high prices. I beg you, in a friendly manner, to come forward and make your proposals. Do not be afraid. Make clear proposals. Answer these proposals: either say that kerosene should be given to the people free of charge forever; or suggest that we should give subsidies to the rich and poor forever; or tell us to levy taxes on all the poor to be given to the rich. This is the meaning of your proposals. If you suggest that we should give free electricity to a man who has every electric appliance in his house, and to another man whose only electric appliance is a light bulb, then you mean we should help the rich at the expense of the poor. For example, we do not charge the households that consume up to 250 kilowatts per quarter. The people may not realize this, but the only charge is five tomans [service charge]. Up to 70 percent of the subscribers would either not have extra charges on their bill, or would pay between 10, 15, or 30 percent more. If some people wish to run all their appliances on electricity, and even wish to polish their shoes with an electric shoe polisher, well, let them pay more. Electricity is a very expensive form of energy. When we burn oil to make electricity, 70 percent of the oil energy is wasted. What sort of economic theory suggests that we should give free electricity to the people? I have seen articles written in the newspapers on such proposals. Are they not afraid of God and the people? They think the people do not understand. Of course, many people do not understand because no one has explained these matters to them. Such proposals do not come from a sense of social justice, economic wisdom, or a proper interpretation to suggest that we should live in that manner.

We must move forward gradually. Of course, we cannot shock society. We should do it gradually. I call upon wise persons to raise these matters. Do not leave it all to the government to raise them, because we are the other side of the interested party. Those who understand should explain these matters to the people. They should analyze and explain our policy and methods of running the country. There is always nagging about rationing. Well, you saw what happened during the rationing period. We used to allocate rations, but some would redirect it to the black market and hoarders. At present, most of the domestic products are supplied at a single price. There is no longer a black market for these products. The producers and the middlemen make a profit, and the consumers purchase everything with peace of mind. Of course, some retailers are unfair. This is a separate issue of discussion. I accept this fact. If the retailers fail to take heed of logical suggestions, then one day we will sort them out. We will not allow them to continue doing what they like; but this is a different issue for discussion. [crowd shouts approval and suppport]

There is the issue of Iranians abroad. I raise a social issue now. Although I feel tired, I raise this issue because it has not been mentioned before. The same issue was raised recently. There are some groups who make a living by hypocricy, under the guise of revolutionary slogans. I will explain what I mean. What is in the interest of the people and the revolution? Is it when Iranians live abroad or when they live at home? This is a question. I do not know how many people are living abroad. I am not saying 2 or 3 million, the figure does not matter. No doubt, our foreign enemies wish to encourage the Iranians to flee abroad. They pursue several objectives: Those who are wealthy take their wealth with them; those who have brains and ideas take their ideas abroad; and those who possess none of these things become spies, mercenaries, a tool in the hand of the enemies, or a cheap source of labor. Since our revolution is a cultural revolution, and is not for material things, morally the enemies become happy to see several million Iranians living abroad in the world of blasphemy. They, their wives, their children, their daughters and sons, all become contaminated.

Who thinks that when someone flees from Iran and goes abroad he will remain morally healthy? Frankly, is there anyone in this country who can honestly say: I believe everyone should go abroad. Well, if this is what you believe, then open the borders. Why do you arrest fugitives on the border to bring them back and imprison them? If you really want them to go, then you should let them go. You should be pleased to see them go, and this is what you should ask God as a request. If those who flee are counterrevolutionaries, they will be reorganized abroad and turned into a lever to embarrass us by telling lies, making films and writing articles against the revolution to spread constant poison against the revolution. What is the benefit to us when Iranians live abroad? What new idea appeared in our country? This is a policy which started at the time of the imam. The imam instructed them: Come back, and bring your capital to work here; come back and work for your country.

There was a meeting abroad, attended by a number of revolutionaries, counterrevolutionaries, our supporters and opponents; suddenly there was a hue and cry in articles here, and they continuing to write about it. The title of their articles is "Invitation to capitalists abroad."

They write lengthy articles, so that the poor people, the workers, the revolutionaries, and the hezbollahis praise them as sympathetic writers.

My dear fellow! How many capitalists do you think there are abroad? What percentage of the people living abroad are capitalists? Those whose wealth is inside the country? We confiscated their assets and have them in our hands. Some stole money and took it abroad, but the majority are not in that group. Most of them have either escaped conscription, have decided to stay abroad after finishing their studies, or are living penniless abroad as counter-revolutionaries. We are not saying that they should all come back by setting preconditions. We are not accepting preconditions from anybody.

We have announced that anyone who wishes to return should adapt himself with the country's moral and revolutionary code of conduct. If they have cases standing against them, they should go to court here. They will either be exonerated or pardoned. [as heard] If a general amnesty is given, they will be granted amnesty. The policy is clear, and those who make certain remarks know that the leadership has passed the issue to the National Security Council to discuss the matter and announce the policy. But, daily, we see new articles in the papers with such headlines as "In connection with the invitation to capitalists abroad." What sort of wicked morals should one have to treat his country, his revolution, his people, and the blood of his martyrs in this manner? Some people only read the title and never bother with the article, not knowing what the whole thing is about. Truly we abandon moderation in our propaganda.

We indeed overstep the boundaries of moderation in terms of our propoganda, and such campaigning is indeed dastardly. Campaigning should be done logically; we are, after all, Muslims. [koranic verse] One cannot resolve issues in such a manner. Who has said that the capitalists should return, repossess their assets, and take over the helm? From whom did you hear such remarks, which you have printed in the newspapers? I say: Abolish such approaches. Make open criticism. For instance, discuss this very issue. Hold a genuine debate over whether the capitalists should or should not return. If they are to return, which ones of them should return? At present it is the counterrevolutionaries who are pursuing this propoganda, since they want to apply for political asylum, and hence describe Iran as unsafe. By issuing such threats here we provide them with the pretext to say that Iran is unsafe. They have said so explicitly. They have said: Look, there is a strong faction inside Iran which opposes our return; they will put us on trial; these ones and those ones are in charge of the revolution courts. This is exactly their wish. They want us to say that Iran is unsafe so that they may be granted political asylum. What kind of an Iranian is one who applies for political asylum? Can anyone count on that person as an Iranian? He is a person forced to obey. He is a person forced to carry their loads. He is a person forced to spy for them. He is a person forced to serve arrogance. What kind of a policy is this? To send millions of our people over there to join the enemy forces? What kind of a criticism is it that asks why have the Iranians outside the country been invited to return to the country?

I am indeed surprised, especially at those from whom one expects a more profound examination of the issue, hence profound remarks. As I said, I am decisevly in support of a logical presentation of the issues in newspapers, on radio, in speeches, and from Majles tribunes, but plans should also be presented. It should not be...[crowd interrupts, chanting: "God is great," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"] We are not Radio Israel, which mentions only faults and...[sentence unfinished]

It is possible that there may be faults, and I am not suggesting that our conduct has been infallible in whatever we have done, or that all our policies are accurate. We make mistakes, too. They can mention our mistakes, but conditional upon their presentation of a plan. Whomsoever puts forward an allegation, should also present a plan alongside that allegation, so that one can accept his remark and hence rectify the country's problems. I say, as I have said once before, I do not accuse these people who have made such remarks, of ill will, but I accuse them of acting wrongly. They too wish to maintain the revolution. They too possess revolutionary spirit. They too wish to keep the country on the imam's path. They too wish to maintain unity in society. But, on occassion, they feel that society is not dealing with some issues appropriately, especially now, when they keep to the issue of high prices. Something happens in a corner, and then you see how it suddenly takes up a newspaper headline, yet they cannot come up with a solution as to how to combat the high prices. They write: Provide us with a budget so that the prices do not increase, or supply us with some credit, or suggest cancellation of this or that. Why don't they say: Do not build anymore power stations, refineries, or bridges. Why don't they say that there is no need to connect some villages to the electricity grid. Why don't they say: Do not supply the villages with piped running water any longer, suggesting that these services should pay for themselves. Why don't you say these things?

This is where the problem lies, and God willing, with the piety which exists in the majority of our provinces and among the nation, it will be observed, and no more such detrimental remarks will be made before the elections. Instead, there could be sound remarks and plans. You should acknowledge those who care for you, those who provie you with solutions, those who work to supply you with water, electricity, necessities, and transport. No one has ever succeeded in anything by virtue of mere slogans. Slogans are good if they are coupled with action.

I had written an Arabic sermon, but since my sermon has become very lengthy, I will not present it.

Sources Claim U.S. Plans To Topple Saddam

LD1207191891 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, 12 July, IRNA—The United States has recently stepped up efforts to launch a military coup in Iraq to bring down Saddam Husayn, news sources at the United Nations said on Friday.

Speaking to IRNA on condition of anonymity, the sources referred to U.S. President George Bush's plea to Iraqi military commanders on Wednesday to launch a coup d'etat against Saddam Husayn as a proof supporting their claim.

According to the sources, American military commanders have established constant contacts with high ranking Iraqi military commanders since the Persian Gulf war ended.

The meetings are being held apparently to handle the deployment of American and other Western troops in northern Iraq to ensure the security of Iraqi Kurdish people.

General John Shalikashvili, commander of American troops based in northern Iraq, is leading the American delegation to the talks with Iraqi commanders.

The sources also claimed that the issue of Saddam Husayn being toppled by his military commanders has been constantly raised by American commanders in negotiations with their Iraqi counterparts.

They said they did not know anything about the reaction of Iraqi commanders participating in the talks with the Americans, adding that even U.S. officials were reluctant to speak about the issue.

The schedule of meetings between American and Iraqi commanders has been dropped from regular briefings by the Pentagon spokesman, in order to prevent any information from leaking out, they said.

They maintained that reports published outside Iraq over the past two months on the execution of some Iraqi commanders on the order of Saddam Husayn had some truth in it and were probably linked to Washington's attempt to topple Saddam.

According to a news source, any effort aimed at overthrowing the Iraqi ruler is likely to coincide with a U.S. air raid on Iraqi nuclear installations.

The NBC T.V. network in a broadcast Wednesday evening quoted Pentagon as claiming that the U.S. has detected targets inside Iraqi used as hide-outs for Iraqi nuclear equipment.

Talking to reporters Wednesday, the U.S. President strongly attacked Iraq's policies, saying explicitly that Washington was ready to provide the Iraqi military with another opportunity to pave the way for Saddam's overthrow.

A source close to the American diplomatic mission to the United nations said the U.S. did not wish Shiite or Kurdish groups to come to power in Baghdad. He said Washington never intended to upset the composition of Iraq's ruling body.

"The type of military coup d'etat the U.S. wants to take place in Iraq is like a [word indistinct] surgical operation in which a cancerous tumor (Saddam Husayn) should be removed from Iraq's governing body," he said.

The Bush administration was sharply criticized after the end of the Persian Gulf war for its refusal to continue the U.S. military operation against Iraq to topple Saddam.

Political observers believe that if Washington was serious in its plan to stage a coup against Saddam Husayn, one should expect part of the U.S. naval fleet moving towards the Middle East in coming weeks.

Before any action, the U.S. is expected to consult with its allies in the Persian Gulf war especially Western governments to ensure its success.

The future of Iraq is on the agenda of a summit meeting of seven major industrialized countries to open in London soon. The same issue was reviewed by the five permanent members of the Security Council in a conference on Middle East arms control in Paris.

Paper on Rising Importance of Islamic Movement

NC1207174691 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Jul 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "The International Position of the Islamic Movement"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The international balance of power has undergone a massive upheaval. The Eastern empire has crumbled and the "Warsaw" military bloc has disintegrated. Although the West initially welcomed these changes and tried to portray them as its own victories, it gradually realized that the power structure of the West is on the brink of change as well. [passage omitted]

Contrary to some peoples' opinion that the world is moving toward a unipolar system, the current trend of international upheavals actually favors a new movement which is just entering a position of prestige and exultation. This movement, which is slowly but surely permeating the international power equilibrium, is Islam and it includes all the nations of the Islamic world.

This is the largest upheaval in contemporary history and has greater importance than the dismemberment of the Eastern bloc, which simply signalled the end of a chapter. The current phenomenon opens a new chapter, one that has been opposed by the world powers since it began.

Islam is not a new religion, nor is the Islamic world a newly formed grouping. What has given it its fresh

importance is a new enthusiasm which stems from the developing awareness of the Islamic world's public.

A review of the events of the past two decades will clearly indicate that, when compared with the Islamic Revolution, there has not been any movement which has been so dazzling, deep-rooted, or vast, which has contributed to so many events, or which has so fundamentally changed the global power structure.

The decline of the Eastern bloc's prestige and its subsequent dismemberment has spawned a new generation of liberation movements with a marked "inclination toward religion." This tendency has been instrumental in making "Islam" a true candidate for a world power, and Muslim nations should rise up to take their appropriate place in the new global power structure.

Several factors have created special circumstances which have given the Muslims the ability to transform their collective traits into a single, effective world power, including their geographic location and strategic homelands, which have valuable energy and raw materials resources and are densely populated, with abundant manpower and a distinctive distribution of Muslims. This is the secret behind the massive atrocities being planned against the Islamic world. [passage omitted]

The West, which has always been quick to capitalize on antigovernment movements in any part of the world in order to exert pressure, has hastened to aid the Algerian Government, in turn motivating it to exert greater pressure and use force on Muslims in that country. The West claims to champion human rights, but has supported the bloodthirsty Baghdad regime for years because it had killed Iraqi Muslims and crushed their Islamic movement.

The West rejected the Red armed force's invasion of Afghanistan, but is now tempted to compromise with the Kabul puppet, because it fears Muslim revolutionaries will take over the Afghan Government.

The savage enemies of Islam, who know no limits, will keep repressing the legitimate Muslim uprising and will insist on continuing their unlawful behavior. The forces of truth should therefore become stronger and more steadfast regarding their righteous stance.

Despite the innumerable differences they may have, the enemies of Islam have reached a consensus on one point: to oppose Islam and the Muslims in word and deed. Naturally, the Muslims should shelve their differences and make a final decision on combating their common enemy. [passage omitted]

Nepal & Bhutan

Government Orders Action Against Civil Servants

BK1307152191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1500 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 13 (AFP)—The Nepali Government has ordered ministers to act against civil servants who have been staging strikes to demand better pay and benefits, the state radio said Saturday.

The official announcement ordered a ban on unofficial meetings by civil servants on government property and instructed heads of departments and ministries to take disciplinary action against those not carrying out their normal duties.

"If civil servants down their pens and hamper others from carrying out their duties then they are to be dealt with strongly under the civil servants act," the annoucement said.

The leftist Nepal Civil Servants' Organization (NCSO) has been pressing for improved pay and benefits but the Nepali Congress Government has asked that they wait until a pay commission submits its report.

Three NSCO leaders were suspended from their jobs earlier in the week, prompting an escalating strike action by many of the country's civil servants.

Arrests Made in Strike

BK1407122091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1144 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 14 (AFP)—The Nepalese Government disciplined Sunday a number of unofficial grade civil servants involved in a "pen-down" strike earlier in the day, an official source said.

"Over 40 (people) including six staff of the Nepalese Home Ministry were arrested and an unaccounted number of civil servants made absent from their duties by departmental heads for observing a...pen-down strike between 10:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M.," a Home Ministry official said.

The ministry's chief spokesman, Ramananda Baidya, warned of more disciplinary measures if the agitation, which began July 1, continues.

"Today we have taken only the security measure aspects and we do not consider it a serious offence of those civil servants who were wearing black ribbons on their right arms while working," he said. "But from Monday onwards, even that won't be tolerated."

"We will take stringent measures under the Nepal Civil Service Act and if necessary even (fire) indisciplined staff who try to exploit the civil servants for the political interest of the opposition."

The civil servants are seeking better allowances for housing, transportation, health and their children's education, as well as higher wages.

Sunday's action affected the central regional court, the Supreme Court, the postal service, the Ministries of Finance and General Administration, the auditor general's office and the Public Service Commission. Similar protests were made outside the capital.

Also Sunday, an official announcement over state radio said the Nepalese Council of Ministers, headed by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, has decided to take serious action against civil servants who attempt to stop others from fulfilling their professional duties.

But the Nepal civil servants' organisation remained defiant in face of a government threat to dismiss union leaders.

"If the Koirala government thinks everything could be settled through the dismissal of the 150,000 non-official level civil servants across the country on disciplinary action, we have nothing to say," said Prem Dangal, president of the union.

"We will go on fighting against the Koirala government till our five-point demands are fulfilled, no matter whatsoever the consequences we may have to face in the future," Mr. Dangal added.

Pakistan

Sharif Addresses Nation on Law, Order Situation

BK1407090091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1435 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Address to nation by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on 13 July; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the most merciful and compassionate. My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. I am compelled to address you today, putting off my scheduled programs. During the past few days, several major incidents relating to peace and security have taken place. Many internal and external forces became active in a state of despondency after seeing Pakistan's elected democratic government becoming strong and the country marching on a path of reconstruction and progress by solving its basic problems. Conspiracies were hatched to disrupt law and order, and, inside the country, vested interests launched a pychological campaign to thwart the democratic system. This is not a new thing. Whenever Pakistan starts its march toward stability by setting its foot on the path of industrial and agricultural development, such conspiracies are launched. Our external enemy plans these conspiracies and certain vested interests inside the country become tools in their hands and start harming the country. We are facing a similar situation now. However, we, by the grace of God and the strength of the Pakistani people, will thwart these conspiracies.

For this purpose, I have had to make some changes in our agenda. We have had to call a session of the National Assembly during the Muslim month of Muharram, but this was extremely necessary to establish law, order, and peace, and to face the conspiracies being hatched against the country. Your elected representatives will have to stay away from their respective areas due to this extraordinary session of the National Assembly, but they are gathering here only for the sake of protecting your life and property, and for the security of the country. It is your duty to keep a close watch on the law and order situation during their absence, and respect the religious sentiments of one another so as not to let anybody harm the national solidarity. The Islamic calendar year begins with that glorious and shining example of sacrifice which we commemorate every year with due solemnity and religious fervor. I am confident that you will always keep in sight your faith and spirit of sacrifice and the 10th day of Muharram festival will pass peacefully.

I was told that the decision to postpone the extremely important visit to Japan due to some incidents of murder was not correct, but I do not view human feelings in light of gain or loss. I hold my relationship with my people above everything else. I know for what purpose these incidents of gruesome murders of innocent children, women, and unarmed men are being carried out. I had the idea as to which of our external enemies and their agents inside the country are playing with innocent human lives and for what purpose. On one hand, instability is being created by making the life and property of the people insecure, on the other, a campaign is on to create uncertainty and a lack of confidence among the people by spreading various kinds of rumors. The basic principle of democracy is that during elections, every side tries to gain power, which is its right. But, after the people have given their verdict, only the government that was chosen is given the opportunity to work, because it has received the people's mandate. But, in our country, there is a strange tradition of hatching conspiracies to weaken the government right from the very first month, even though it came to power after securing such a big majority. What has not happened in the country during past few months? Efforts were made to hatch conspiracies and to form groupings in the country. An unjustified demand for a national coalition government was made. The people's verdict is that we should run the affairs of the state, while we are asked to accept into the government those whom the people had not deemed fit for this responsibility. A group of disheartened and despondent politicians are inciting undemocratic forces to wipe out the elected institutions and shake the foundations of Pakistan.

What kind of politicians are they who are displaying their incompetence by inviting undemocratic forces to their field? Such people should themselves quit the political field. If they do not possess the ability to run their politics themselves, then what right do they have to remain in the political field and play with the fate of the people and the future of the country for the sake of

power? In fact, such politicians, who are inviting undemocratic forces, want to take revenge on this country for their failure. I would like to tell you clearly and categorically that neither a national coalition government nor any nondemocratic government will be formed here. The people wishing to see this happen will continue to be consumed by the smoldering fire of their own conspiracies. I assure you that your elected government is strong, democracy is stable, and the country is safe, God willing.

During my nearly eight months' rule, I have successfully and democratically resolved, by the grace of God, extremely important and basic problems having a bearing on the future of the country and the nation. However, this will not have an immediate impact on the life of the common people. I know this. Had I wished, I would have taken new loans and made you happy by ignoring development work and brushing aside old problems. I could have also earned the favor of the political brokers by sharing some power with them. This very tradition was mostly adopted in the past to maintain the status quo, which resulted in the breakup and destruction of the state machinery. The economy is not in good shape. Bribery and corruption have made the people's life miserable. Oppressed and harassed people are running from one place to another seeking justice. They sell their property and wait for years, but they do not get justice. Take any facet of life, it seems all evil things have accumulated in that field alone. Everything seems to be in bad shape. If power means preserving these evils and [word indistinct], then I swear by God that Nawaz Sharif does not want this power at all. I am a person who does not believe in the status quo. I have started the process of moving forward by solving major and basic problems. I had expected that after resolving old tangles, I would then attend to solving day-to-day problems. In light of the increasing incidents of murders, supply of arms, and robbery and kidnappings which robbed the people of their peace of mind, I have decided to change my priorities. If the enemies of Pakistan and power-hungry politicians have decided to chop off the heads of our innocent women and children and unarmed men to fulfill their abominable designs, then I have also decided to leave everything aside and protect them, God willing.

My dear sisters and brothers, where I have the honor to resolve major problems democratically, I have also realized during the eight months of my rule that I am facing some constraints in some areas. I am telling you from the depth of my heart that I have thus far not been able to work according to my wish to eliminate bribery and corruption, to take justice to the doorsteps of the poor, to protect your life and property, and to break the hands of the tyrants. I desire to have the criminals hanged in public, in front of their next of kin, before the blood of the murdered person dries; but I cannot do so under the Constitution and the law. The murderer of the innocent child, Abeel, who was murdered in Lahore a few years ago, is still escaping punishment. The assassins of Nabi Shah Junejo, the judge who was martyred for upholding justice, are in the custody of the police, but are still alive. If the hand of the law does not extend to the neck of the criminals, it will continue to encourage the persons committing crimes.

In light of eight month's experience, I have firm determination to accept the challenge posed by the anti-country and criminal elements and to wage a war against them and start the process of bringing about all the necessary revolutionary changes as there is no other means left to improve the situation. Therefore, to attain this objective, and to crush those who play with the lives and properties of innocent people, I have decided to secure the authority from the parliament, the language of which will be understood by these people. The government can have this power through the Constitution and the law only. Therefore, we have decided to take revolutionary steps to promote peace and justice by amending the Constitution. I am confident that all the members of the National Assembly and the Senate irrespective of their political affiliation will demonstrate consensus on this issue of national importance. I am ready to cooperate with the opposition in every way and even to personally go to anyone for the protection of life and property and the security of the country. Even after the amendment to the Constitution, we will secure practical help from all irrespective of their affiliations to establish law and order and justice.

My dear countrymen, this is the first time since independence that stability seems to be taking root in our country. This is what is hurting the enemies of Pakistan the most. They know that once the industrious, diligent, and courageous people of this country attain political stability and march on the path of progress and gain an opportunity to work peacefully for five years, then no one can obstruct Pakistan from becoming the Germany of this region. Therefore, attempts are being made to divert us from our path. There is no place for party politics in our efforts to protect our citizens by countering the conspiracies against our integrity, prosperity, and security. If these conspiracies are frustrated and the tranquillity and peace of the people is restored, thereby leading the country toward progress and stability, then not only I and my party will benefit from that. The opposition will benefit from this as well, because no one has any permanent right to authority. It is a trust of the people. We have to do away with the tradition of scattering thorns on the chairs of leaders and on the paths of passers by. After all, this affects the country and the nation. The thorns I have inherited are not hurting me alone, but the common citizens of the country as well.

The people's response to my decision to rid the society of lethal weapons so as to make it civilized and peaceful has not been as I expected. Many people are under the fear that they will face punishment if they surrender weapons, and therefore a sizable quantity of weapons have thus gone underground. Suggestions have come from political and social quarters as well that it will not be appropriate in the prevailing conditions to totally

deprive the law- abiding people of weapons. The law-abiding people should be allowed to keep their arms for their protection until the antisocial elements are completely eliminated. Therefore, I have decided to extend the date of return of illegal weapons, and to issue licenses to noble citizens for keeping special kinds of weapons for their protection. The people thus returning illegal weapons will not be asked any questions. Rather, if they meet the legal requirements, they will be allowed to keep their weapons by acquiring regular licenses.

My dear countrymen, it is very saddening that we are compelled to waste our time and a considerable portion of our capabilities and resources on the restoration of law and order. It might affect our efforts for progress and prosperity. This is what is desired by the enemies of Pakistan and our political opponents. We will not let their desire be fulfilled, God willing. We will continue our work for economic progress at a revolutionary pace. The country's defense will remain our first priority as always. We are firmly committed to resting only after making Pakistan strong and stable and an impregnable fortress.

The people of Pakistan have already been subjected to the devastating consequences of chaos, maladministration, instability, and political disorder. We want to see the country prosper and grow strong by frustrating the conspiracies for creating chaos and sabotage. Our people want freedom from disorder and poverty. They have come to know that political sloganeering cannot provide their children with food nor can it ensure peace, tranquillity, and justice.

Our press should cooperate with us in keeping the nation's morale high. The morning's newspapers create a frustrating impression among the common people. There are some newspapers that spoil the readers' mornings. Such newspapers are hardly available anywhere in the world. I would like to request my journalist brothers to comprehend the difference between the need for freedom of expression in a stable and developed society and that of a backward and underdeveloped society. The enemies try to manipulate this difference. But, we have to display prudence and intelligence and protect ourselves from their conspiracies. This country belongs to you also and it is your duty to act in accordance with your professional standards while keeping in view the educational and intellectual level of the people and the collective situation of the society and the educational standard in rural and urban life.

Sisters and brothers, I stated in my first speech that I had some dreams. They are not different from yours. I would like to transform my great country in conformity with the dreams that you and I both have. The people here are very simple, honest, industrious, and intelligent. God the Almighty has bestowed on them all sorts of resources. Our soil, our rivers, our forests, our sea, and our mountains are all pregnant with resources. Our soil produces the harvest of gold and the hands of our peasants and laborers beget wealth. The people are poor and distressed due to the shortcomings of our administrative system such as bribery, corruption, delay in provision of justice, disorder, and various other flaws. I have entered politics with a desire to rid my Pakistan of these sorrows and to establish a peaceful, prosperous, and developed society. I request that you pray to God so that I may succeed in fulfilling the dreams that you and I cherish and make Pakistan a truly independent, strong, dignified, and glorious country. Amen. Long live Pakistan.

Court Rejects Bhutto Petition Against Parliament

BK1407131291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 14 Jul 91

[Text] A division bench of Sindh High Court has dismissed the constitutional petition filed by the former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto Sahiba, challenging the validity of the parliament and provincial assemblies; Disqualification of Membership Order 1977, President Order 17 of 1977. The court, while announcing the judgment this morning, held that Presidential Order [PO] 17 of 1977 was a valid case of legislation and the references filed against the petitioner by the president, before the special court under PO 17 of 1977, are competent in law and do not suffer from any legal constitutional infirmity. The division bench comprised Chief Justice Saeeduzzaman Siddiqi, and Mr. Justice Imam Ali Qazi.

Minister Says More People Depositing Arms

BK1507113891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] The National Assembly, which began its session this morning, was informed that the depositing of illegal arms has picked up, particularly in Sindh Province. Interior Minister Chaudhary Shujat Hussain informed the house during question hour that, in other provinces, there is also progress in this regard, but the pace is slower than expected. He enumerated various steps taken by the government to maintain law and order in the country. The house has adjourned to meet again tomorrow morning.

Nation Said Ready for Defense Pact With Iran

LD1307131491 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, July 13, IRNA—Pakistani Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Admiral Iftkhar Ahmad Sirohey voiced Islamabad's readiness here Friday night to conclude a defence treaty with Iran.

Admiral Sirohey made the remark in a dinner banquet at the Iranian Embassy here given by the visiting Iranian commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i who arrived here at the head of a top-ranking military delegation last Tuesday.

Praising Iran for its eight-year resistance against the Iraqi aggression, the Pakistani official referred to the

plots hatched by the enemies of Islam in the past decade and called for consolidation of unity among Muslims. He further added that the Islamic world is facing serious threats which requires Muslim states to close their ranks with more vigilance and alertness.

Brigadier General Mohsen Reza'i touched on the plots by the weakening Muslims and the Islamic states, enemies of Islam aimed at Iran and Pakistan in particular. He said while the Zionist regime and the neighbouring countries of Iran and Pakistan enjoy atomic facilities, the U.S. insists upon depriving Iran and Pakistan from access to such facilities. This, he said, is a plot to weaken the two nations of Iran and Pakistan.

Reza'i also expressed hope that the cooperation among the three nations of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan will become materialized.

The IRGC commander and the accompanying delegation toured military establishments in the two cities of Islamabad and Lahore last Tuesday.

Iran's Guard Corp Commander Continues Visit

Reza'i Meets With Sharif

LD1107175891 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1445 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Mohsen Reza'i, Islamic Revolution Guards Corp. commander in chief, who is visiting Pakistan as head of a delegation, yesterday met with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to discuss regional issues and global peace. At the meeting, the two sides called for the expansion of bilateral cooperation. Mr. Reza'i expressed concern for the Kashmiri Muslims, saying that the solidarity of the Islamic ummah would solve the problems of Kashmir and Afghanistan.

Received by President, Commanders

LD1307210691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Major General Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], who is in Pakistan at the head of a delegation, met and conferred with Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan today. According to IRNA, the Pakistani president stressed the importance of the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan for security in the Persian Gulf, and said: Without the presence of Iran and Pakistan, security plans in the region will be incomplete. At the end of the meeting, the Pakistani president awarded the IRGC commander with Pakistan's military (?crescent) medal.

The IRGC commander also held separate meetings today with the commanders of the Air Force and Navy, and the secretary general of Pakistan's Foreign Ministry.

Sri Lanka

Security Forces Stabilize Elephant Pass Position

Rebels Suffer 'Very Heavy Losses'

BK1307084891 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0816 GMT 13 Jul 91

["Oana/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, July 13 (LANKAPUVATH)—The security forces, after having repulsed a major LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attack on their strategically-located camp at Elephant Pass which straddles the southern entrance to the Jaffna peninsula, were reported consolidating positions and stabilizing the situation.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that according to latest reports, fighting had died down to a sporadic exchange of fire.

The sources said the LTTE had suffered very heavy losses running into several dozens dead and well over 50 in the battle of Elephant Pass.

The LTTE have been severely trounced by the security forces in several battles this year. They include the routs they suffered at Silavattura, Nanddan, Murunkan, Paraiyankulam, Pandisurichchan, Karainagar, Kayts and Thoppigala.

Terrorists had also directed sporadic fire, Friday at the Palaly military base. No casualties were reported.

Meanwhile, police recovered eight shot guns which had been buried by subversives in a coconut plantation at Ananamaduwa in the north western Puttalam District.

'Lull' in Fighting Reported

BK1407142191 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1334 GMT 14 Jul 91

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, July 14 (LANKAPUVATH)—Soldiers defending the security forces camp under siege by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] at Elephant Pass, scored a magnificent victory Saturday [13 July] night when they broke out of camp and successfully defeated the terrorists in fierce hand to hand combat as the enemy approached their 2nd line of defence.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH over fifty terrorists were killed in the fighting which began at 2200 hours (local time) Saturday night and ended at 0400 hours (local time) Sunday.

The bodies of 45 terrorists killed in hand to hand combat were collected by the ground troops this morning after the terrorists had been forced to withdraw. Twenty three weapons were also recovered.

Three soldiers were killed in Saturday night's fighting. The total number of security forces killed in battle is now 16.

Saturday night's assault by the LTTE on the strategically located security forces camp, straddling the southern entrance of Jaffna Peninsula, was the third unsuccessful attempt to overrun it in as many days.

Official sources said that this morning security forces had blown up a D-8 bulldozer packed with explosives, driven by a suicide bomber who was trying to ram the camp. This was the fourth such bulldozer destroyed by the security forces during the current battle.

Over hundred LTTE terrorists have been killed in the fighting, which began with the first LTTE attack on the Elephant Pass camp, where they came to within 200 metres of the camp before being pushed back.

The LTTE losses were so heavy that repeated radio calls are being made for blood for the wounded, and for reinforcements.

Latest reports from Elephant Pass stated there was a lull in the fighting.

People's Front Said To Have Links With Rebels

BK1307110791 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0956 GMT 13 Jul 91

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 13 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Upcountry Peoples Front links with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] have been established. The president of the Upcountry Peoples Front, Thuraisamy Chandrasekeran, is alleged to have told police that he and his organisation had direct links with the LTTE. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that Mr. Chandrasekeran had reportedly said that he had direct contact with the LTTE leadership. He had also allegedly told CDB [Crime Detection Bureau] detectives that he had harboured LTTE car bomb mastermind, Varathan, for three days at the Upcountry Peoples Front office at Talawakele, although he knew that the terrorist was wanted by the police for the JOC [Joint Operations Command] and Ranjan Wijeratne assassination car bombings. Chandrasekeran, V.T. Dharmalingam, former principal of the Talawakele Tamil Maha Vidyalaya [College], who is a member of the Nuwara Eliya Pradeshiya Sabha [village council], and Bawa Abdul Cader of the Upcountry Peoples Front are in police custody.

Meanwhile, CDB detectives have firmly estabished the identity of the terrorist sucide bomber who set off the 50 kilo bomb concealed in a Toyota Hi-ace van which killed General Ranjan Wijeratne at Havelock Road, Bambalapitiya (Colombo-04) on the morning of Saturday March 2 as he was driving to his official residence to breakfast with his wife. Official sources said the sucide bomber had been identified as 'Prem', who had been sent to Colombo from the LTTE's base at Nallur in Jaffna. Investigations have revealed he was the third terrorist sent to Colombo to assassinate General Ranjan Wijeratne, the other two bombers having decamped when they decided they did not want to die. One of them, was arrested in the plantation town of Balangoda, Thursday, by CDB detectives. The other is in hiding abroad. The identity of the JOC bomber Chandran has also been established. Thirty five members of the LTTE's Colombo bomb squad are under arrest. The JOC and Ranjan Wijeratne assassination car bombings killed a total of 39 persons—the majority of them civilians—wounded 200, damaged 250 buildings, and destroyed 35 vehicles.